

E L E O N O R A,

A N O V E L,

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS;

IN TWO VOLUMES.

ELFONORA

A NOVEL

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE

ATHEMATIC



LEEDS & YORKSHIRE

VOLUME SECOND

LONDON

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
BY THE LITERARY SOCIETY AT THE LONDON PRESS

AND SOLD BY
WALTER, NO. 200, PICCADILLY, AND W. RICH-
ARDSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE.

ELEONORA,

A NOVEL,

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS;

WRITTEN BY

A FEMALE INHABITANT

OF

LEEDS IN YORKSHIRE.

VOLUME SECOND.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHORESS,
BY THE LITERARY SOCIETY AT THE Logographic Press,
AND SOLD BY
J. WALTER, No. 169, PICCADILLY; AND W. RICH-
ARDSON, ROYAL-EXCHANGE.



ELEONORA

LETTER XXII.

IT was my intention to have given you in my last, some description of the country around Leeds; but after all my efforts, I find myself unequal to the task of delineating its beauties. I shall therefore only say, that the various prospects afford to the eye the richest display of nature in her most luxuriant and inviting garb. I do not know a more pleasant country to travel through in all England;—but to return to my own affairs.

Amongst the families who visited at Mr. Herbert's, was Mr. Oswald's; this gentleman was a very opulent merchant,—a man of great piety and liberality of sentiment;—his understanding and ideas much enlarged by education and travel;—he was in short the finished gentleman.—He had been married early in life to an amiable accomplished woman, who died about eight years before I knew him, and left him childless. Mr. Oswald was a long time inconsolable for her loss, and had no thoughts of entering again into a matrimonial connection; but his friends pointing out to him the necessity of it for the proper regulation of his domestic concerns, he at length yielded to their importunities, and married a lady they recommended him. She was about thirty five, neither handsome nor ordinary, but between both; good-tempered, and an excellent œconomist; frugal without meanness, and capable of presiding at his table, and entertaining his friends with gentility; had her education not been so limited, she would doubtless have made a shining

I . . .

shining figure in the world, as her understanding was not defective, and she had all the good qualities of the heart—they lived together very happily. When I first saw them at Mrs. Herbert's, they were accompanied by their daughter, a little girl, about six years old; she was beautiful as a Hebe, and of a sweet engaging disposition; the parents were both very fond of her, but Mrs. Oswald carried her fondness to so great a degree, as to be scarce able to suffer her out of her sight, least any accident should happen to her. This circumstance often caused uneasiness in the mind of Mr. Oswald, who foresaw much difficulty in prevailing with her to part with the child for the necessary purpose of receiving instructions at some good school. I had been in their company several times before any conversation arose to lead me to speak of Mrs. Wright in their presence; but upon one of their visits to Mrs. Herbert an opportunity offered, and I spoke with all the warmth of a grateful heart, of the affectionate and unremitted attention of

4 E L E O N O R A,

my kind benefactress to the pupils under
her care. The next morning, while I was
employed in my chamber, Mr. Oswald
called at Mr. Herbert's, and, after the
customary compliments, said to Mrs. Her-
bert, "my dear Madam, I have been re-
flecting deeply upon the conversation
that passed here yesterday, and am so
much pleased with the character which
you and Miss Sheldon gave of Mrs.
Wright, that I earnestly wish my little
Kate was under her care; but I foresee
much difficulty in gaining Mrs. Oswald's
consent to her leaving us, and I really
cannot bear to pain her by insisting
upon it, notwithstanding the necessity:
I know her objection will be that the
child is yet too young; but, in my opi-
nion, instruction is not easily obtained
unless the foundation is laid very early
in life. I am, therefore, extremely de-
sirous of placing her with Mrs. Wright
as soon as possible; and I shall esteem
myself infinitely obliged to you, Ma-
dam, not only to use your influence
with

“ with Miss Sheldon to take charge of
 “ Kate up to London, but likewise your
 “ endeavours to persuade Mrs. Oswald to
 “ consent to it: I know she has the high-
 “ est respect for your judgement, and
 “ I place great dependence upon the
 “ effect of your intercessions with her.”

“ Ah! Sir!” returned Mrs. Herbert,
 “ you are imposing a task far too difficult
 “ for me to hope the least success will at-
 “ tend the undertaking; but, if you will
 “ permit me, I think I can propose a bet-
 “ ter plan; one that will give Miss Os-
 “ wald the advantage of every improve-
 “ ment and embellishment you would
 “ wish, and at the same time save Mrs.
 “ Oswald from undergoing the pain of
 “ a separation.”

“ Name it, Madam,” cried he, eager-
 “ ly; “ for be assured I have not the wel-
 “ fare of my child more at heart, than
 “ I have the happiness of Mrs. Oswald.”

B 3 “ Truly

“ Truly sensible of that, Sir,” resumed Mrs. Herbert, “ I ventured to mention it: now, what I would propose, is, that you would engage Miss Sheldon as a private tutress to Miss Oswald.—She is well qualified for the undertaking, and, I think, will accept it with pleasure, and give you perfect satisfaction.”

“ If you think so, Madam,” returned Mr. Oswald, “ I shall with pleasure engage her upon your recommendation; then my chief anxiety is at once removed, and Mrs. Oswald and I shall still enjoy the pleasing company of our little prattler, without her suffering any disadvantage from our self-indulgence.— I do not wish” continued he, “ to discover any impertinent curiosity about Miss Sheldon, but I cannot help expressing my regret that her circumstances are such as lead you to suppose it probable she may enter into such an engagement.”

Mrs. Her-

Mrs. Herbert then informed him of such particulars, respecting me, as she thought would be sufficient to insure me their future esteem: after which he departed, and she came upstairs to me with the intelligence. In the afternoon Mrs. Oswald came herself, and made the proposal to me; I accepted it, and in a few days after removed to their house at Chapel-town, a beautiful village surrounded with many very genteel families at a small distance from the town of Leeds.

Mr. and Mrs. Oswald behaved to me from first to last uniformly kind, and I felt myself pleasingly situated; but I am obliged now to break off,—so adieu.

My dear Madam,

ever yours,

ELEONORA.

L E T T E R XXIII.

AS it had never been stipulated between us, what particular branches of education I was to give my little pupil; Mr. Oswald concluded it would be necessary to employ masters to teach her dancing, drawing, music, geography, &c. and when I had been there two years, he was discoursing with me one day upon the subject, judge of his surprize, as well as gratitude, in discovering that she had made a tolerable progress in each of these, without the aid of such assistance: he complimented me very warmly, and I received from his Lady the following day a very genteel present, as an acknowledgement of my attention to their child.

I con-

I continued with this family the space of nine years without any thing to interrupt my happiness, except my increasing though hopeless attachment to Mr. Carlton.—He kept up a regular correspondence with me; and his letters, as they served to feed my passion, seemed the only thread on which my existence hung.—Valuable presents always accompanied his letters, which proved very useful; yet I was not perfectly satisfied, his letters were still only expressive of a fraternal tenderness which interested him in all my concerns, and caused him to make me acquainted with all his own; by which I had the pleasure to find he had got promoted to the command of a company.—As I determined to adhere to the promise I had made to my dear benefactors, I frequently requested them to open every packet from India, before they sent them to me; but Mr. Nelson never would consent to do so: I therefore always transmitted Mr. Carlton's letters with my returns to them, unsealed for their perusal; and had very fre-

quent remonstrances by letters from Mrs. Wright, and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, upon the weakness and absurdity of sacrificing all the comfort and happiness of my life to an attachment so void of every ray of hope. Mrs. Herbert too, condemned even while she pitied me.—Yet my heart could not renounce its darling object, though convinced of the impropriety of cherishing it—one proof of female constancy in a virtuous attachment. During my long stay in Yorkshire, however, I had not one formidable trial to shake it: two very powerful bars prevented my having the offer of any promotion in the matrimonial way there—these were my want of knowledge in the great science of *good housewifery*, and my want of *fortune*; and though perhaps love might have been blind to the former, yet it could not be so to the latter.—I would not have you understand from this that I never had a lover while I staid there, I really had one who professed to be so; but he was too strict a worshipper of Plutus not to be easily cured, when he found
I had

I had no offering to make to the shrine of his idol.—The innamorato I am speaking of, was the son of a distant relation of Mr. Herbert, who had by dint of industry, carefulness, and several small legacies, scraped together the prodigious sum of three thousand pounds; and never did I know a more pulse proud set than the whole trio,—I mean the father, mother, and son.—The education of the two former extended so far as just to be able to read a chapter in the Bible, with only a few breaks here and there to spell a hard word, and the son's learning was little superior, for he was capable of little more than writing his name.—To make this their only son a gentleman, old Ringwood and his wife had for a number of years plodded on in the business of the manufactory; and thought themselves well rewarded by the vast perfections they fancied him possessed of.—Thinking him too good to be employed in their business, they suffered him to be totally idle and useless to himself and the community till he had attained his

twenty-second year.—His poor foolish mother devoted the chief of her time to pleasing him; so that in the end she had filled his stupid head with such very high ideas of his own consequence, that to the pride of *Lucifer* he added the conceit of *Narcissus*.—His person was not despicable, and his face would have been tolerably handsome, had there not been such a total vacancy of all expression in it; for his eye never sparkled with pleasure, except upon the acquisition or prospect of gain.—At length, this hopeful youth was fixed by his father in the business of a Leeds merchant, in partnership with a person whose judgement and activity was to be deemed an equivalent for Ringworth's providing cash to carry it on with.—Having now, as they thought, *lifted* him into the character of a gentleman, the whole family were prodigiously exalted in their own estimation; and in company their conversation always turned upon their abundant wealth. Things were just brought into this train with them, when I settled at Mr. Of-

wald's.—Young Ringworth now spent the greatest part of his time at Leeds with little more employment than before: he went often to Mr. Herbert's,—of course we sometimes met there; when Mrs. Herbert and I diverted ourselves much with his metamorphose; for he soon began to dress, though destitute of all taste; instead of wearing his hair in its natural form cut short round, he got a long tail tied to it, turned it up before, and curls at the sides; long ruffles dangled at his wrists, and the rest of his cloathing in the fashionable style, which served to render his native awkwardness and vulgarity so much the more conspicuous, and his figure recalled to my mind the picture of the monkey who had seen the world.—He was one of the votaries of Bacchus too, but the strong influence of avarice prevented his making any sacrifices there at his own expence; at the expence of others, he would readily offer up large libations.—Just such was this delectable fellow, who took it into his head to make *Yorkshire* love

love to me.—I make this distinction, because it is totally different to the method of making *love* any where else, than ever I heard of, when in the vulgar way as his was.—For your amusement you shall have a specimen.

One fine summer evening when I was visiting at Mr. Herbert's, young Ringworth was there; and when I rose to take leave, he made no *offer* of attending me, but without saying a word took up his hat and followed me out at the street door; from whence, with both his hands in *his coat pockets*, he walked by my side above half a mile, both of us observing a dead silence all the way. At length his mouth opened with “ye is’nt grieved, Miss, “I hope?” “Grieved! Mr. Ringworth!” cried I—with some degree of surprize,—“no! I have nothing to grieve at just now, as I know of.” “I thought, “mayhap, ye wur, Miss,” returned he, “at me getting a-gate wi’ ye.” “Indeed, “Mr. Ringworth,” cried I, “I am of
“too

“too philosophic a disposition to be grieved by any part of your conduct.”

“What for, Miss?” said he with a vacant stare; which look, together with his question, made me clearly comprehend that he did not understand the word philosophic: I therefore said “Oh! I only meant that I could not be grieved at any thing you said or did.” “I thoat so, Miss,” cried he; “for moother said, to day, as *shoo* was sure ye liked me; and so, Miss,” added he, simpering, “I should be glad to have something to say to ye.”

As I was then ignorant, my Lady, that what he had said was an exprefs declaration of love, I gave him all the encouragement he could wish, by answering without hesitation, “say on, then; for I have heard you say so little yet, that I have been tempted to doubt sometimes whether you had the proper use of your tongue.” “Nay, Miss,” said he, “yore very funny; but when we are wed ye’ll hear me talk fast enough: I warrant I pleases

"I pleases ye wi' talking, for I can say
"as much for my sen as any body. Dame
"Jennison and Wiully Richards says as
"I talks better than squire Glenney do at
" 'Sizes, and he's a laayer too." "Then,"
returned I, "I think you have been very
"unkind, if you can talk so well as that,
"never to let me hear you say any thing
"before, though I have been so often in
"your company." "Laws, Miss," cried he,
"how should I know as ye wanted
"to hear me talk, for ye ne'er axed me;
"but moother told me I was a fool
"for not saying more to ye, for shoo
"knowed ye loved me, 'cause ye said to
"shoo as shoo wur very happy in such a
"son as me, as would larn of her so well,
"and from that shoo said shoo knowed
"ye loved me." "Your mother must
"be very clever, indeed, Mr. Ringworth!"
said I, "to find that out for I never knew
"it myself; but every one must allow her
"to be a woman of great penetration,
"since she is able to discover such hidden
"mysteries." "Oy, oy!" said he, grinning,

ning, "moother's ne'er mista'en, shoo
"knows what's what; father's a poor
"ninny sure enough, but that's nought;
"moother does all, and father'd ne'er ha'
"been half so rich an it had'nt ha' been
"for shoo: shoo tuck such care, as he's
"worth a power o' brass naw, and I'm to
"ha't all, being there's nobody else for it;
"so I shall be as good a gentleman as
"cousin Herbert, for all he and mistress
"carry their heads so high, for I can pay
"my way as well as he can." "I am
"very glad to hear it, Mr. Ringworth,"
cried I.—"Yea, Miss," said he, "that's
"right, it will be all the better for ye, ye
"knows; ye're got some sense, I fees,
"more than o' the London lasses I ha' feed
"yet;—no offence, Miss, for every body
"as has any sense knows as there's nought
"to be done without the brass. He! he!
"he!"—Here he was interrupted by a
lady and gentleman who joined me, and the
poor young man went on silently, with his
hands in his pockets, till we got to the
door of Mr. Oswald's house. He then
drawed

drawed me aside, and said, "ye'll remem-
 "ber, Miss, what I ha' been saying to ye,
 "I hopes you'll prove true to me." I nod-
 ded assent, and we parted. Give me leave
 now to wish your Ladyship a good night,
 after the pleasure of repeating that

I am, Madam,

Yours, faithfully,

ELEONORA.

LET

L E T T E R XXIV.

WHEN I got into the house I related the whole conversation to Mr. and Mrs. Oswald, who both laughed heartily, and then informed me that Ringworth had been making me a real downright declaration of love, according to the manner in use amongst the *vulgar* part of the Yorkshire folks.

“There only wants now,”—said Mr. Oswald,—“a few hearty kisses to compleat
“it, and that Miss Sheldon you must expect at your next meeting; the very
“children here”—continued he—“understand *that* to be a necessary part of
“the ceremony; for this morning, as I was
“walking along, I heard a little girl about
“eight years old, give as curious a definition
“tion

“tion of courtship as ever I heard in my
“life: just as I came up with her, a wo-
“man who was walking by her side, said:
“to her, thee to talk of courting,—thee
“know’st nought what courting is.”—
“yea but I do,”—cried the child—“for
“its nought else but kissing and talking.”
“you are pretty right there child, thought
“I, for I believe it is the principal part
“of the business all the world over.”—
Here he was interrupted, and our discourse
ended by the delivery of a packet to me,
containing letters from my dear Carlton
and the Delmores, who I found had arri-
ved safe and well at Bengal, which gave
me great satisfaction, and I presently re-
tired to contemplate that from Mr. Carlton.

Some weeks passed on without my seeing
any more of my spark, except once or
twice from the window, when I gave him
an encouraging nod; but it would not do
to bring him into the house, and you may
suppose I would not understand his signals
to go out to him; so he gave over the pur-
suit,

Tuit, and contented himself with waiting till chance threw me again in his way at Mr. Herbert's, where the first time I went, I happened to meet his mother instead of him; she was wonderfully glad to see me, began presently to talk of her son, and in an oblique way took infinite pains to court me for him; she told me of a vast many lasses in their village who wanted to have him, but indeed her Tummas looked a little higher she'd ha'em to know, and in this strain she went on a long time: at length a circumstance occurred that displayed her ignorance to perfection, and diverted me not a little: the servant brought Mr. Herbert a London newspaper, and Mrs. Ringworth requested him to read it aloud, as she loved a bit of news; he complied, and began reading the Old Bailey Intelligence; when, amongst the names of the prisoners, there was as usual frequent mention of the word *alias*—she interrupted him by saying,

“Law, Mr. Herbert, I ha’t patience
“wi so many people being such fools, if

I wur

"I wur to ha twenty bairns I'd ne'er chrif-
 "ten none on em *Alias*, for I thinks all
 "the *Alias's* comes to be hang'd, or sent
 "beyond seas!" I with difficulty kept
 my countenance, my two friends *could*
not, but it was of no consequence, she
 had too high an opinion of herself to ima-
 gine they were laughing at her; she very
 soon took her leave, and I suppose went
 directly to her son, for before I could
 escape he entered, and accompanied me as
 before: when we had got a few yards from
 the house, he said,

"Well Miss I ha' ben thinking a deal
 "about ye knows what, Miss, as we talked
 "of the last time we courted one another."

"Have you indeed! Mr. Ringworth,"
 returned I—"I declare I imagined you
 "had quite forgot *that* and *me* too, and
 "had taken another *sweetheart* by this time,
 "as you have not been near me since, so
 "I have not thought much about it."

"Lookee

"Looke there now!" cried he—Moo-
"ther's right I sees!—she said as I should
"put a good face on't, and go court ye
"a bit, for an I went agate o this fashions,
"shoo did'nt knaw when we should wed,
"an mayhap some other sweetheart o more
"courage might go and snap ye up in
"a twinkling."

"Your mother understands things I see,"
—returned I—I suppose she thinks of the
old adage—"happy the wooing that's not
"long a doing."

"Naye"—said he grinning—"as to
"hard-edges, Miss, shoo does'nt think much
"about such *macks* as them there, but
"sho'od ha us to be wed out a hand; so
"Miss an ye likes it I'll tac a hooft at
"Leeds, and moother an ye can see about
"bousel goods."

"I think we had better not be in a hur-
"ry,"—I replied—"for I'm just thinking
"I should not be capable of managing
"a house,

“ a house, and therefore I am not likely
“ to be a fit wife for you; for I can neither
“ dress a joint of meat, make a pudding,
“ or a pye, pickle, or preserve, or make
“ wines, or scold servants, and they tell
“ me that the Yorkshire lasses won’t do
“ well without scolding; so we had better
“ break off the courtship at once!”

“ Marcy! Miss!”—exclaimed he—
“ why Loondon breedings good for nought
“ as I sees, ha! ha! ha! but howsever
“ ye’ll larn all that o Moother, and as for
“ the matter o flighting sarvants theo does
“ as any body i our parish, so we’ll court
“ on, Miss, for them macks dunna signify,
“ if so be as ye brings some *brass* to mac
“ the pot boil.”

“ But there’s another very unlucky cir-
“ cumstance,”—said I—“ and that is, Mr.
“ Ringworth, that all the fortune I expect,
“ and is worth having, is over beyond seas.”

“ Well but ye can ha it here, I sup-
“ pose,”—said he with eagerness—“ if
“ ye has a mind to send for’t, can’t ye?”

“ No!

“Not I wish I could—said I in return—
“but I will not deceive you, for I am sure
“you will be too generous to refuse me on
“that account; so I’ll tell you at once,
“that if ever I have any fortune, I must
“marry the very man who has it now in
“keeping, and if I do not have him
“I shall have no fortune at all, but as you
“are so very rich, to be sure it can be no
“object to you.” Never was anger and
disappointment more strongly expressed
than in his looks! he replied, “Who told
“ye that? I’m sure I’ll ne’er wed ye
“without the brass; no, no, who’d be
“fool then? Tum Ringworth’s no such
“Ninny; so yore outlanddish sweetheart
“may dangle ater yore teal an he will for
“me;” and without further ceremony he
walked off: thus you see I was easily rid
of my swain, and went on attending as
usual to my sweet little pupil; with what
pleasure, my dear Madam, did I perceive
her mind expanding daily, and like the
opening rose-bud, diffusing its charms to
all

all around; giving delight to the hearts of her parents, while herself became the object of universal admiration and esteem.

I had been at Mr. Oswald's about five years, when Colonel Eldridge, purchased an estate in the neighbourhood: the day they returned Mr. and Mrs. Oswald's first visit, I was in the room with them, when, as Mrs. Oswald was speaking to me, she addressed me by my name—the Colonel immediately (with an increase of colour in his face, and joy lighting up his eyes) repeated

“ Sheldon! Sheldon!—permit me,
 “ Madam, to ask if the late Mr. Thomas
 “ Sheldon, merchant, in Austin Friars,
 “ was any way related to you?” I answered—“ He was my father's brother, Sir.”

“ Then, Miss, Sheldon I am extremely
 “ happy in being so fortunate as to meet
 “ with you,”—cries he—“ since it affords
 “ me

“ me an opportunity of expressing that
“ gratitude I owe to the memory of your
“ uncle ; and be assured you will give me
“ infinite pleasure, if you will put it in
“ my power to testify more substantially
“ than by words ; my best services you may
“ command, for—”

“ *She has an undoubted right to them*”—
interrupted Mrs. Eldridge, eagerly—“ for
“ that noble-minded man her uncle was
“ our friend, our benefactor, and the pre-
“ server of *my* life—not even our own
“ children then have stronger claims upon
“ us than his nearest relation ! his repre-
“ sentative !”

“ True ! my Mary, true !”—rejoined
the Colonel—“ she shall share our *fortune*
“ with them as well as our *affections* ; we
“ must introduce them to each other, our
“ children will love her as their sister.”
While their lips were expressing the grate-
ful sensations of their hearts, I was afflicted

with pleasure even to pain: I was very young when my uncle died, but his amiable disposition and benignant sweetness of manners, made such an impression upon my mind, even at that early period, as will never be effaced from my remembrance: I loved him with filial affection, and was a *sincere* mourner for his loss; nor was I the only one, for every object of his benevolence mourned the departure of him who had made life pleasing to them, and every eye that had beheld him, wept at the idea of beholding him no more. Colonel Eldridge would have dwelt on his praises for ever, though his utterance was frequently stopped by the tears that flowed down his manly furrowed cheeks. Mrs. Eldridge too, could not be silent on the delightful theme, which engrossed almost the whole of the conversation that passed during this visit, for the Colonel could not satisfy the feelings of his heart without entering into a detail of the obligations he had to my uncle, and that obliged him to en-

ter into the history of his own life; as I think it will afford your Ladyship some amusement, I will give it you, but it is too long to enter upon now. I shall therefore say adieu,

And remain,

Your's unalterably,

E L E O N O R A .

LETTER.

L E T T E R XXV.

THE Colonel, addressing Mr. and Mrs. Oswald, said, "I make no apology to you, my good Sir, and Madam, for thus engrossing all the discourse to myself, because in your *countenances* I read your *hearts*, and am convinced they are too good to be displeased with the overflowings of a grateful one. As your curiosity must be excited upon this occasion, I shall with more pleasure give you such an account of myself as will fully gratify it.

"My father possessed a very considerable estate in Hampshire; I was his only child, and, of course, had the education of a gentleman. I was just entering upon the twenty-third year of my

1

"life,

“ life, when a very severe fit of the Gout
“ obliged my father to go to Bath, whi-
“ ther I accompanied him. His indif-
“ position prevented his going into public,
“ but he insisted upon my doing it: in
“ consequence of which I frequented the
“ rooms. The first ball I attended, I was
“ presently much struck with the beauty
“ of a young Lady present, and soon pre-
“ vailed upon her to dance with me: and
“ I availed myself of this so far as to at-
“ tach myself to her the whole evening.
“ This gave me an opportunity of making
“ two discoveries; the first was, that the
“ personal charms of Miss Mortimer were
“ her least perfections;—the other, that
“ my heart was irrecoverably gone.—
“ Without once reflecting on the difficul-
“ ties that lay in the way to impede our
“ union I assiduously cultivated her ac-
“ quaintance—studied to make myself
“ agreeable to her, and succeeded. In
“ the course of my intimacy with her,
“ I learned that she was the daughter of
“ a truly pious and respectable clergyman

in the North of England, who had for many years subsisted upon the income arising from a small curacy; but about two years before I saw Miss Mortimer, her father had been introduced to the knowledge of Lord Sudbury,--a nobleman well known for distinguishing merit wherever he found it, and rewarding it to the utmost of his abilities.—Mr. Mortimer was not the man to be disregarded by him:—a Living of two hundred per annum within his gift became vacant, and Mr. Mortimer was presented to it by his Lordship.—Miss Mortimer was often in company with Lady Sudbury, whose growing attachment induced her to solicit Mr. Mortimer to let his daughter accompany her to Bath, which request he readily complied with, as their stay was to be short,—and short indeed it appeared to me, for they left the place some weeks before my father was restored to health; and during the rest of my stay, time hung heavy indeed;—all was joyless—all was insipidity.—

pidity.—Happily my beloved Mary had promised to receive and answer my letters, and my only comfort was derived from this correspondence.—My father rallied me on the visible alteration he perceived in me :—I then frankly confessed to him the situation of my heart, he laughed heartily—treated the subject with a levity very unbecoming his years or the paternal character, and went so far as to advise me to pursue her, adding that he did not doubt but she would capitulate upon easy terms. As I abhorred the principles of a libertine, I felt myself hurt and offended beyond measure.—Filial respect withheld my resentment, while firmly adhering to my integrity, I at once undeceived him, and solicited his consent to ask the hand of Miss Mortimer in marriage.—It is impossible to describe his rage at the proposal!—he not only refused, but threatened me with his everlasting displeasure and fixed determination to disinherit me if I ever

“ entered into such an alliance. He then
“ commanded me to retire from his pre-
“ sence; which I did in a state of mind
“ inconceivably wretched, and immedi-
“ ately wrote my Mary an account of this
“ afflictive event: at the same time vow-
“ ing an everlasting and honourable affec-
“ tion, and promising to visit her short-
“ ly.—I embraced the earliest opportu-
“ nity for that purpose, and was received
“ by Mr. Mortimer with every appear-
“ ance of the most cordial esteem. In
“ a short time, after my entrance, his
“ daughter left the room, and I was pre-
“ paring to ask his concurrence with my
“ wishes, when he prevented me, by say-
“ ing, ‘ Mr. Eldridge I am no stranger
“ to the cause of your honouring my
“ humble cottage with your presence.—
“ Mary has ever been accustomed to view,
“ in her father her most affectionate and
“ faithful friend; consequently she has
“ no reserves with me.—When at Bath,
“ she wrote me an account of your atten-
“ tions to her there; nor did she, Sir, at-
“ tempt

“tempt to conceal from me the tender sen-
 “sations which our conduct and professions
 “had excited in her bosom. I had heard
 “your character from others, and my heart
 “was prepared to admire and esteem you.
 “Your letters to my daughter increased
 “my regard, and with pleasure I gave
 “my sanction to those she sent you in re-
 “turn.—The prospect of such an alliance
 “called forth all my powers of gratitude
 “to Providence for such unlooked for
 “blessings.—Yielding to these pleasing
 “impressions, you will not wonder that
 “the sting of disappointment, conveyed
 “in your last letter, gave me the most
 “poignant anguish I ever felt:—it opened
 “my eyes to my own folly in having
 “supposed it possible, that, because you
 “thought the *merits* of my daughter
 “amply compensated for every deficien-
 “cy of the gifts of *fortune*, your father—
 “a man in years—a man of the world;
 “too—would ever be inclined to concur
 “with you, in that opinion; and I can
 “no other way excuse my own error,
 “than

“ than by saying that having spent the
“ greatest part of my life in obscurity,
“ secluded from any society but what this
“ village and others within the circum-
“ ference of a few miles afford, I am
“ a stranger to the customs and ideas of
“ the *Great world*: having myself enjoyed
“ happiness upon a very scanty income,
“ I could not imagine that all the felicity
“ of life consisted solely in the possession
“ of more wealth than a human being can
“ spend in a justifiable manner, when they
“ lay aside the virtues of generosity and
“ benevolence.—But my inferences and
“ conclusions were all wrong, and I now
“ see that you cannot be united to my
“ daughter without entailing upon your-
“ self the horrors of poverty, and the tor-
“ tures of self-reproach for having vio-
“ lated the first law of nature.—Mary and
“ I love you too well to be accessory to
“ the making you thus miserable.—Suffer
“ me, therefore, my dear Sir, as your
“ friend, to advise you to struggle against
“ this ill-placed passion, remember that
“ the

"the man, who gains a conquest over
"himself, is greater far than he who con-
"quers a world.—Your understanding
"and the rectitude of your principles,
"Mr. Eldridge, will convince you I am
"only acting as I ought in thus advising
"you.—I know the trial will be severe,
"but it is necessary; and, lest your re-
"solves should be shaken, you must de-
"part without seeing Mary any more:
"reflect that another interview will only
"serve to augment *her* distress as well as
"your own."

"All the time Mr. Mortimer was
"speaking my attention was fixed, and
"my feelings were too big for utterance.
"At the conclusion of his speech, I felt
"my heart recoil at the thought of re-
"nouncing the dearest object of all my
"wishes: almost frantic,—I fell on my
"knees before him, and entreated him
"not to sacrifice me to despair,—declared
"my resolution was unalterably fixed
"never to give my hand to another; and
"again

“ again repeated my vows of everlasting
“ fidelity to her alone. The venerable
“ man felt for me,—he even wept,—but
“ still adhered to the dictates of honour
“ and conscience; and it was some time
“ ere I could bring him to consent to my
“ conversing with my Mary once more in
“ his presence: nor should I have prevail-
“ ed then, had not my evident distress re-
“ moved for the time every prejudice but
“ that of compassion.—She was called in-
“ to the room,—I flung myself at her feet
“ and implored her pity.—But I need not
“ enter into these particularities; suffice
“ it to say, that when we became tolera-
“ bly composed, I requested Mr. Morti-
“ mer to advise me what to do; adding,
“ that as all my hopes of happiness de-
“ pended on an union with his daughter,
“ who, as well as himself, refused to con-
“ sent without the approbation of my fa-
“ ther, which I was determined again to
“ attempt, though hopeless of obtaining
“ it. At length it was agreed that I should
“ set off for London, and request Lord
“ Sud-

“ Sudbury’s interference with my father.
“ Flushed with the most pleasing expecta-
“ tions I flew on the wings of love ! but
“ what was my disappointment on my
“ arrival, on hearing from the servants
“ that his Lordship, by order of his Phy-
“ sicians, had set out three days before for
“ the South of France, whither his Lady
“ had accompanied him. In this situation
“ I knew not what course to pursue ; but
“ gathering courage from despair, I went
“ directly into Hampshire, where I vainly
“ exerted all my powers of persuasion
“ with my Father,—he was deaf to all the
“ arguments I could use.—I wrote every
“ circumstance to Mr. Mortimer, but,
“ finding existence almost insupportable
“ without my Mary, I followed my let-
“ ter and reached the house within a few
“ hours after its reception.—My appear-
“ ance was unexpected, and I could per-
“ ceive a visible chagrin overspread the
“ features of Mr. Mortimer.—I could not
“ bear this ; therefore, disregarding the
“ presence of an old gentleman who was—
“ luck-

4 14 A T O M O T T
TO ELEONORA.

“ luckily, as it afterwards proved for me—
“ with them then, I threw off all re-
“ straint, confessed my wretchedness in
“ having been so unsuccessful, and fer-
“ vently declared that if Mr. Mortimer
“ persisted in refusing me his daughter’s
“ hand, death or the deprivation of my
“ senses must be the inevitable conse-
“ quence.—He was disturbed—he knew
“ not what to answer, but advised me to
“ compose myself and go to rest, and he
“ would talk further with me in the morn-
“ ing. His friend Mr. Arnold, who
“ was an inhabitant of the village, kindly
“ offered me a bed at his house, saying
“ that he thought I appeared too much
“ fatigued and indisposed to proceed to
“ my inn, in the town. I thankfully
“ accepted his offer; and, having order-
“ ed my servant away with the horses,
“ Mr. Arnold and I took our leave. In
“ our way to his house he said every thing
“ that was calculated to inspire hope, and
“ it had the effect he wished of reviving
“ my spirits so much that I slept better
“ than

" than I had done for some time past.
 " Early in the morning Mr. Arnold en-
 " tered my chamber, and sitting down by
 " my bed-side enquired after my health
 " in a very friendly manner.—He found
 " me rather feverish, and insisted upon
 " my submitting to be governed by him,
 " take what he would bring to do me
 " good, and remain in bed a few hours
 " longer : I consented, and he brought
 " what he called a cordial which was of
 " much service to me. When I had drank
 " it he sat down again, and began to talk
 " upon the subject nearest my heart, by
 " telling me that his reverend friend Mor-
 " timer, had acquainted him with the
 " whole affair ; and the communication
 " had prepossessed him so strongly in my
 " favour that he was resolved to render
 " me all the service in his power, if
 " I would open my heart to him without
 " reserve, and let him know the extent of
 " my wishes. I then told him that as my
 " father allowed me annually a very hand-
 " some sum to enable me to support the

“ character and appearance of a gentle-
“ man, I was certain it would be suffi-
“ cient for the support of a wife, who
“ would prefer domestic felicity to fash-
“ ionable gaiety, as I was sure Miss Morti-
“ mer would ; and that, as I found it im-
“ possible for me to be happy without her,
“ I thought we might privately be mar-
“ ried, and keep it a secret from my fa-
“ ther till some favourable opportunity
“ offered for disclosing it. Mr. Arnold
“ agreed with me in opinion, and under-
“ took to go immediately and try to do
“ away all Mr. Mortimer's prejudices
“ against it. I waited his return with im-
“ patience: at length he came and told
“ me that he had not been quite so suc-
“ cessful as he wished, but still he did
“ not despair, as he saw he had shook his
“ friend's resolution a little; ‘ however,’
“ added he, ‘ we will have our dinner,
“ and then go and assail him together;
“ and I think he will not be able to with-
“ stand our united attacks : so have cour-
“ age, and put on a chearful countenance.’

“ After

" After dinner we went thither, and so
" powerful an advocate was Mr. Arnold
" that in the end we wrung from Mr. Mor-
" timer a reluctant consent. That point
" gained, I met with little opposition
" from my Mary—in her breast love was
" my advocate.—Our hands were joined
" in the church, two days after, by Mr.
" Mortimer himself; and every thing
" conducted with such privacy as to leave
" us no reason to dread the news reaching
" the ears of my father."—

Having now, my dear Madam, brought
the Colonel to so happy a part of his story,
I will leave him, and begin his troubles
with my next : in the mean time,

I am, Madam,

in friendship's strongest bonds,

Yours,

ELEONORA.

L E T.

LETTER XXVI.

COLONEL Eldridge continued—
 “ I staid a fortnight after the cere-
 “ mony at the house of Mr. Mortimer,
 “ who then proposed to me to return into
 “ Hampshire to prevent suspicion : I sub-
 “ mitted, and, leaving my Mary to the care
 “ of the tenderest of parents, departed with a
 “ resolution to return to her speedily. On
 “ my arrival at my father’s, I found him
 “ engaged with company ; I joined them,
 “ and was struck almost to the heart at
 “ the extreme coolness and distance of his
 “ manners towards me. On the depar-
 “ ture of his guests I should have asked
 “ an explanation ; but he spared me the
 “ task, by immediately giving me to
 “ understand that he had been informed
 “ of my marriage, and only waited for
 “ a con-
 “ fession I ”

“ a confirmation of the intelligence, from
“ *my* lips to fix his resolves. I hesitated
“ I could not deny the charge, and at
“ length confessed the whole, most earnest-
“ ly entreating his forgiveness.—He did
“ not stay to hear me out, but, flinging
“ from me in a fury, left the room. In
“ a few minutes I received from him
“ a short note, wherein he commanded
“ me to leave his house instantly, without
“ attempting either to write or speak to
“ him, for it was his final determination
“ never to see me again, or open any let-
“ ter from me; and as he considered him-
“ self no longer obliged to support as his
“ son one who had thought proper to re-
“ nounce all right to that title, I must not
“ expect him to continue my annual allow-
“ ance. This note was delivered to me
“ by the butler,—a faithful old servant
“ who had been in the family long before
“ I was born; he was as much affected as
“ I was, and we wept together: from
“ him I learned that my own servant was
“ the villain who had betrayed me:
“ I there-

“ I therefore dismissed him directly,
“ without deigning to give him a reason
“ for it. Well knowing it would be to
“ no purpose to attempt softening my fa-
“ ther’s heart in my favour, I left his
“ house alone and went to a town a few
“ miles distant, staid the night, and next
“ morning set out on my return to Mr.
“ Mortimer’s, whom I dreaded to see,
“ justly fearing his reproaches for invol-
“ ving his daughter in my ruin.—But how
“ agreeably was I surprized to observe
“ that he listened to my melancholy rela-
“ tion with the utmost complacency; and
“ when I ceased speaking, he—with a be-
“ nignant smile—said, ‘ this, Eldridge,
“ is exactly what I expected would hap-
“ pen, but you was young and, of course,
“ too impetuous to take my advice; let us
“ now make the best of it, and not add to
“ trouble by murmuring at the decrees of
“ the Almighty, whose hand is in all these
“ events—infinite wisdom *directs*, and
“ boundless love *executes* all his purposes.
“ We, my children, have not *acted* right;
“ let

“ let us not, therefore, censure the con-
“ duct of old Mr. Eldridge, but bear with
“ submission the punishment we have just-
“ ly incurred. I do not yet despair of
“ a reconciliation taking place, though
“ not very speedily; in the mean time,
“ my son, you must bring down your mind
“ to your circumstances, and be content
“ with sitting down to an homely board,—
“ cleanliness its only ornament.—Except on
“ your account, Mary has no reason what-
“ ever to lament this change in your af-
“ fairs, for she has never been in an *higher*
“ sphere of life than she is at present, and
“ not very long in one *so high*.—Then
“ turning to his daughter with a cheerful
“ air he added, ‘ come, my dear Mary,
“ this night I fancy fixes us three one fa-
“ mily! so I will have it ushered in with
“ a little rejoicing. Eldridge and I will
“ go and fetch Mr. Arnold with his wife
“ and daughters, and, in our absence,
“ you shall order a couple of fowls to the
“ fire, and at our return indulge us with
“ a jug of your best ale—a bottle of your
“ best

"best wine, and we will drink health,
"peace, and good-humour to us all."

"Mr. Mortimer's kindness entirely dis-
"sipated my chagrin, and, with our friendly
"guests, we spent a chearful evening.
"Mr. Arnold, who viewed every thing
"on its brightest side, reminded us of
"Lord Sudbury, through whose medi-
"cation he had no doubt of matters being
"adjusted to our wishes. But poor Lord
"Sudbury died shortly after in France,
"and his Lady settled in Italy. Thus all
"our hopes from that quarter were cut
"off, and Mrs. Eldridge and I continued
"with her father; whose behaviour left
"me no room to regret the steps I had
"taken."

"In a year after our marriage my Mary
"brought me a daughter, which gave a
"large addition to our felicity.—Mr.
"Mortimer doated on his grandchild.—At
"the end of the second year my wife was
"again pregnant, upon which her father
chear-

" cheerfully said to me, 'I see, Eldridge,
" that children are the *poor* man's blessing
" as well as the *parson's*; for you seem
" very likely to have plenty.'—

" I now thought it necessary to try the
" effect of a letter to my father—I did so,
" and it was returned unopened; but
" I had not fed myself with expectation,
" therefore it was no great disappointment
" to me.—Alas! a much heavier stroke
" succeeded!—a fever deprived us of our
" best friend, Mr. Mortimer.—Our grief
" for his loss, may easier be conceived by
" the feeling mind, than described.—We
" were for some time wholly absorbed in
" it; till, at length, our own situation
" obliged us to turn our thoughts upon
" some method of procuring the means of
" subsistence for ourselves and little ones:
" we therefore disposed of the furniture,
" &c. and, on a final adjustment of every
" thing, there remained to us only the
" sum of twenty-five pounds.—Mr. Mor-
" timer's benevolence prevented his leav-

“ ing much property behind him. With
“ this scanty pittance we set out for the
“ metropolis, travelling the cheapest way
“ we could. There I hoped to have
“ used my small talents advantageously ;
“ and having a taste for painting I began
“ with that ; but, having no creature to
“ introduce me to notice, my efforts prov-
“ ed abortive. I then commenced author,
“ but few would purchase my produc-
“ tions ; and those who did, paid me so
“ very little for them, that I soon found it
“ impossible to live by my pen ; and was
“ beginning to think what I should try
“ next ; when, to add to my distress, my
“ beloved Mary fell sick. Terrified inex-
“ pressibly at the dread of losing her, I for-
“ got my poverty and employed an apo-
“ thecary ; but finding her worse for what
“ he administered, I called in the aid of
“ the truly humane Doctor W. F———,
“ previously pawning the greatest part of
“ what belonged to us, to enable me to
“ make the necessary oblations to him.
“ He paid great attention to her, and see-
“ ing

“ ing our wretched circumstances, which
“ it was impossible to conceal from his
“ eye, that *humanity* and *tenderness* had
“ made penetrating, he refused his fees
“ from time to time, yet continued his at-
“ tentions till he saw her nearly recovered.
“ When he paid his last visit, he left upon
“ the table an order for her admission into
“ the Lying-in Hospital. We admired
“ the delicacy of the action, and thank-
“ fully determined to profit by it; but as
“ my wife yet wanted several weeks of her
“ time, she could not *then* go in, and
“ I again tried to get something for her
“ support. Every effort for that purpose
“ proving ineffectual, I had again recourse
“ to my father, painting my distresses as
“ pathetically as possible, and got my let-
“ ter directed in a strange hand: I know
“ not whether he read it, but I heard no-
“ thing from him in answer. I was again
“ obliged to apply to the pawnbroker,
“ and part with all we had remaining to
“ supply nature's wants: the produce was
“ soon exhausted, and—unable to bear

“ the sight of my wife and child perishing
“ for want, in a fit of desperation I in-
“ listed for a soldier, for the sake of the
“ bounty money, which was then more
“ than usual, as a war was just breaking
“ out. This sum served us till she was
“ near her time; but the last sixpence was
“ expended on the morning of that day
“ she had fixed upon for going into the
“ hospital. I was attending her thither
“ with a heavy heart, when one of the sol-
“ diers belonging to the regiment I had
“ enlisted into, met and accosting me
“ familiarly, asked ‘ if I had been to
“ the drill to day?’ Mary then, for the
“ first time, discovered what I had done.
“ She could not speak, but, overpowered
“ with the violence of her emotions, sunk
“ to the ground, and was directly seized
“ with the pains of labour. A croud
“ presently gathered about us, to enquire
“ the matter;—some shook their heads;—
“ others—said the woman will die!—but
“ none offered any assistance, till—direct-
“ ed by Providence—your uncle, Miss
“ Sheldon,

“ Sheldon, who was walking by that way,
“ pushed eagerly through the croud to see
“ what was the matter;—he was shocked
“ at the scene, and eagerly exclaimed
“ ‘ Good God! this poor woman will be
“ lost for want of proper assistance, I fear!
“ what is there no one here that belongs
“ to her?’ Some one in the croud point-
“ ed me out to his notice, and told him
“ I was her husband, and was taking her
“ to the Lying-in Hospital, when she fell
“ and could go no further. ‘ Bless my
“ soul!’ cried he, ‘ she must not lay here
“ and perish? the hospital is but two or
“ three hundred yards further.’ Then,
“ turning to me, with a voice of sympath-
“ etic tenderness, he added, ‘ my friend,
“ why do not you get a coach?’

“ With the tears streaming down my
“ cheeks, I replied—in the most moving
“ accents—oh! Sir! I have not the worth
“ of a shilling in the world to pay for
“ one. ‘ Psha, psha!’ cried he, ‘ get one

“ directly, and leave the rest to me.’ I staid
“ not to reply, but darted along with all
“ imaginable swiftness—met an empty hack,
“ and returned with it in a minute. He hu-
“ manely assisted me in placing her in it;
“ then, bidding me get in with her, said,
“ he would run first and ring at the gate.
“ But one matter I must mention, because
“ it struck me with infinite pleasure at the
“ time.—While we were putting my Mary
“ into the coach, a poor decrepit old
“ woman, (with a basket in her hand,
“ containing a few little cakes,) followed,
“ and said to the coachman, ‘ take care,
“ coachman, for I understands these here
“ things, and if you do not walk your
“ horses as slow as ever you can all the
“ way, you’ll have that there woman’s
“ murder to answer for at *the Day of*
“ *Judgement*; so mind what I says to you
“ now.’ ‘ Thankée, Mistrefs,’ replied the
“ man; but Mr. Sheldon with a smile
“ said, ‘ well, good woman, you have got
“ humanity I find, if you have nothing
“ else

“ else, so here is a trifle to reward it;” and
“ he put a six-pence into her hand.—The
“ poor coachman obeyed her directions,
“ so that when we got to the gate, we
“ found Mr. Sheldon, with the matron and
“ proper assistants, ready to receive us.
“ I got out, and the women went in,
“ drew up the blinds, and in half an
“ hour my Mary was delivered of our
“ son. I waited all the while at the gate
“ in the utmost anxiety: Mr. Sheldon,
“ mean time, walked to, and fro, on the
“ opposite side of the street, till he saw
“ a chair brought from the house to con-
“ vey her into it he then run over to us,
“ went into the hospital, of which he
“ was a governor, gave the matron half-
“ a-crown, and strongly recommended my
“ wife to her care.—After discharging the
“ coach, he gave me a card with his ad-
“ dress, and desired me to call at his house
“ within two hours.

Here, your Ladyship must give me
leave to break off, for I have encroached

on my night's rest to arrive at the period
of my story; so adieu.

I remain,

my dear Madam,

your's, unalterably

ELEONORA.

L E T.

LETTER XXVII.

HAVING now revived my faculties by sleep, I prepare to oblige your Ladyship, by recommencing the Colonel's story:

“ I was punctual to the time, and Mr.
 “ Sheldon's servant immediately conducted
 “ me into the presence of his master,
 “ whom I found alone: he rose upon my
 “ entrance, and courteously desired me to
 “ sit down; called for wine, and after making me drink a glass or two, said to me,
 “ Permit me now to ask you, Sir, what has
 “ been the means of bringing you to your
 “ present wretchedness and poverty? under
 “ the disguise of which I still see the gentleman? deal ingenuously with me, and
 “ I will be your friend. I will consider
 D 5 “ upon

“ upon some way of serving you.” “ Be-
“ nevolence so unexpected, was too much
“ for my feelings—tears prevented my
“ reply for some time, but recovering,
“ I apologized for my behaviour, and in-
“ formed him of my real situation in every
“ respect :—he felt for me, and expressed
“ great regret for the rashness I had been
“ guilty of in enlisting. ‘ A war is now
“ inevitable,’—said he—‘ and it is im-
“ possible to buy you off any other way
“ than by the purchase of a commission,
“ and even then you cannot sell out du-
“ ring the war without incurring the im-
“ putation of cowardice!’—after consider-
“ ing awhile he added—‘ but really Mr. El-
“ dridge, as things are circumstanced with
“ you at present, I do not see any thing
“ you can do better than to go into the
“ army, *as a gentleman*; therefore make
“ yourself easy, I’ll do the best I can for
“ you in that way—but I feel great con-
“ cern for Mrs. Eldridge, in her present
“ condition; for God’s sake let us do some
“ thing directly to ease her mind, there can
“ be

“ be no crime in a little innocent decep-
 “ tion for that purpose.’ “ He then
 “ wrote a note to her himself, well calcu-
 “ lated to remove her *fears* and raise her
 “ *hopes*—by his desire, it was inclosed in
 “ one from myself, confirming what he
 “ had said—this done, he dispatched one
 “ of his servants with it to the hospital,
 “ with directions to the matron to read it
 “ to her, as the contents would, in all
 “ probability, procure her a good night’s
 “ repose. This amiable man kept me to
 “ supper with him; at parting he put a
 “ guinea in my hand, and desired to see
 “ me again in the morning. My first visit
 “ was to the hospital, where I had the sa-
 “ tisfaction to hear the notes had taken
 “ the desired effect, of procuring my
 “ Mary a comfortable night, and she was
 “ in a fair way to do well; with this in-
 “ telligence I waited upon your kind un-
 “ cle, to whom it appeared to give very
 “ sensible pleasure: he then informed me
 “ that he had been acting for me, and had
 “ hopes of congratulating me, in a few
 “ days,

“ days, upon an advantageous change in
“ my situation; desiring me to be at his
“ house every day in the mean time, which
“ I accordingly was, and that gave me an
“ opportunity of observing I was not the
“ only person upon whom he exercised his
“ beneficence: in him I saw the uni-
“ versal *friend* and *brother* of mankind;
“ his domestics, while they served him
“ with fidelity, loved and venerated him.
“ ’Till I knew Mr. Sheldon, I had ever
“ been fearful of receiving pecuniary fa-
“ vours from any one; but from him I ac-
“ cepted them with grateful pleasure; for
“ though their value was considerably en-
“ hanced by the delicacy with which they
“ were conferred, yet the weight of them
“ was thereby so lessened, that my heart
“ felt no painful sensations—those of es-
“ teem and gratitude, cannot be a burthen
“ to any but mean minds—Mr. Sheldon
“ was not long before he presented me
“ with a Lieutenant’s commission, after
“ which he proposed to me to change my
“ apartments, for others more suited to
“ my

“ my style of life. I did so directly, and
“ hired a maid servant, to take proper
“ care of our dear little girl, whose ap-
“ pearance began to shew the want of it;
“ for as it had not been in my power to
“ offer any other than a trifling consider-
“ ation for the trouble, the woman who
“ undertook the care of her had paid but
“ little attention to the child in the absence
“ of its mother: by the assistance of my
“ kind friend, I redeemed the apparel we
“ had pawned, which enabled Mrs. El-
“ dridge and myself to make our wonted
“ appearance; and on her recovery, I re-
“ moved her to our new lodgings, where
“ Mr. Sheldon visited, and kindly under-
“ took to inform her of my situation; the
“ idea of my being exposed to all the hor-
“ rors of war, was at first almost too much
“ for her tender feelings to support; but
“ religion at length inspired her with some
“ degree of fortitude; and when the pain-
“ ful moment of separation came, she
“ bore it with much more firmness than
“ I expected.

“ Our

“ Our regiment being now ordered out,
“ I settled my family in a neat small house,
“ at a little distance from London, Mr. Shel-
“ don advancing me a sum of money to
“ provide all necessaries for it; for which
“ I desired to give him my bond, but the
“ generous man refused to take any other se-
“ curity than my note :—when the dreaded
“ hour, in which I was compelled to de-
“ part arrived, he took infinite pains to
“ elevate our hopes, and dispel every
“ painful thought; he promised me his
“ warmest friendship, and his fraternal at-
“ tention to my family, nor did he break
“ his word; he punctually forwarded all
“ the letters between Mrs. Eldridge and
“ me; and with the disinterested kindness
“ of a brother, anticipated all her wants.
“ During my stay abroad I got promoted
“ to the command of a company; and a
“ distant relation of Mrs. Eldridge, (from
“ whom we had never any expectation)
“ died, and left us a handsome legacy; so
“ that our affairs were become pretty easy
“ before I returned home; at which time
“ I had

" I had the pleasure to hear from Mr.
 " Sheldon (whom I saw before I went
 " home to my Mary) that he had great
 " hopes of bringing about a reconciliation
 " between my father and me, as he stood
 " at that time very high in the old gentle-
 " man's good opinion, to whom he had
 " been at great pains to get introduced
 " upon my account: he then went on to
 " tell me, that after having been frequent-
 " ly together, and upon a very intimate
 " footing, without ever mentioning me, he
 " prevailed upon my father to spend a few
 " weeks at *his* house in London: he came,
 " and Mr. Sheldon engaged Mrs. Eldridge
 " to bring the little ones, and spend a day
 " with them, at the same time informing
 " her whom she would meet: at the time
 " appointed she went, and Mr. Sheldon
 " introduced her to him as the wife of
 " a gentleman, who had bound him by
 " every tie of friendship to act a brother's
 " part towards her in his absence; in con-
 " sequence of this introduction, he avoid-
 " ed the necessity of giving her any other
 " title

“ title than the familiar one of sister Mary;
“ the plot succeeded; my father, without
“ knowing whom she was, was charmed
“ with her, and delighted with the chil-
“ dren. After dinner she left the room,
“ when he took the opportunity to express
“ his admiration of her very warmly—
“ Our friend then told every particular re-
“ specting the manner of his becoming ac-
“ quainted with us, at which the old gen-
“ tleman appeared much affected; and
“ Mr. Sheldon then frankly told him who
“ she was, and apologized for the little
“ innocent device he had practised; this
“ intelligence struck my father dumb for
“ some time; and Mr. Sheldon went on
“ to plead in our favour till my wife re-
“ entered, when he rose, took her by the
“ hand, and again introduced her to him
“ as his daughter; my father embraced
“ her tenderly, and promised his affection
“ to *her* and the *children*, but added, ‘that
“ he did not know he should ever forgive
“ me, as he thought he ought not in con-
“ science to retract a vow he had so often
“ repeated:’

“ repeated; they did not contradict him,
“ and the matter dropped; he, however,
“ went to see her very soon after, and
“ they continued the intimacy till my ar-
“ rival. This information gave me real
“ pleasure, and I immediately wrote a pe-
“ nitential letter to my father, which Mr.
“ Sheldon undertook to be the bearer of;
“ and in two days after I had the happi-
“ ness of seeing them both at my house,
“ which compleated my felicity; but I did
“ not long enjoy it, for the Colonel of our
“ regiment died of his wounds, and after
“ discharging my *pecuniary* debts to my
“ friend, I purchased the succession with
“ what remained of our legacy. We were
“ again ordered abroad, in which expedition
“ I was engaged in very active service, till
“ a peace took place, and we were re-
“ called: I then sold out, and settled in
“ London, for the pleasure of being near
“ Mr. Sheldon; our hearts were knit to-
“ ther, and our persons were seldom asun-
“ der; he honoured me with unbounded
“ confidence. Your father, Mrs. Shel-
“ don,

“ don, had then been married about two
“ years ; previous to which, the two bro-
“ thers were much together, and I had of-
“ ten been in company with the elder Mr.
“ Sheldon, both at his own and his brother’s
“ house ; but the connection he had formed,
“ had unhappily placed a distance between
“ him and my friend, which gave me much
“ concern, as indeed it did your uncle,
“ who frequently lamented to me the loss
“ of so pleasing an intercourse ; for, unfor-
“ tunately, your mamma entertained the
“ utmost contempt for every person con-
“ nected with trade ; and notwithstanding
“ her affection for her husband had indu-
“ ced her to overlook that defect in his situ-
“ ation, yet she could not overlook it in
“ another ; therefore chose, by the *hauteur*
“ of her carriage, to drive from her house
“ all who were so unfortunate to be thus situ-
“ ated :—my friend was soon disgusted ; and
“ tho’ he did not wholly absent himself from
“ them, yet he seldom visited any other
“ part of the house than the nursery, from
“ whence he could scarce be absent a single
“ day ;

“ day; every visit increased his tender affection for you and your sister; you was just turned of eight years old when this excellent man died:— in his last illness Mrs. Eldridge and I were constantly with him, and had the consolation of seeing him perfectly resigned to the will of God; he had no other anxiety than for the welfare of his two darling nieces.—Two days previous to his decease, as we sat by his bed side, he took a hand of each of us, and looking wistfully in our faces, said: My beloved friends, may I promise myself you will be kind to my two dear little girls?—alas! it will not be long, I fear, before they will stand in need of your kindness:—oh! Eldridge! if ever the name of Thomas Sheldon was dear to your heart, *prove* it when he is no more, by your tender attention to his lovely nieces.—We were too much affected to speak, and he went on—My brother and I have both been wrong;— I see it now, but oh! it is too late.—He
“ has

“ has weakly yielded against his judgment
“ to gratify the pride of a thoughtless in-
“ considerate woman, whose extravagance
“ has nearly ruined him;—and I blush
“ to tell you, that I, even while I knew it
“ could be of no *real* use to him, have
“ been induced, by a false mistaken tender-
“ ness, from time to time, to assist to prop
“ his sinking credit, till my own fortune is
“ nearly exhausted :— I am convinced that
“ when my debts are all paid, there will be
“ only a few hundreds remaining :— my
“ poor brother cannot stand it long, and
“ then I tremble for the children :— oh !
“ remember, my dear Eldridge ! remember,
“ my dearest Madam ! it is my dying re-
“ quest that you will supply to them the loss
“ of their uncle.” We made him the most
“ solemn promise, but it so happened, that
“ a few months before your father failed,
“ mine went to the south of France for his
“ health, from thence to the German Spa;
“ and Mrs. Eldridge and I accompanied
“ him, and were absent a long time :— on

“ our return to England, we heard the par-
“ ticulars, together with the death of your
“ parents; but our most diligent enquiries
“ could never, till now, give me any intel-
“ ligence, concerning you and your sister,
“ which was matter of great regret to us all;
“ for even my father was much interested
“ for you both:—however, Miss Sheldon,
“ I hope it is not yet too late to testify my
“ gratitude, and affection for your ami-
“ able uncle, whose memory will ever be
“ revered by myself and family.—I have
“ now an ample fortune;—my father died
“ several years ago, since which I have en-
“ joyed the family estate; and should have
“ continued still in Hampshire, but our
“ three children being all married and settled
“ in Yorkshire, for the sake of their society,
“ we chose to take up our residence here
“ too; and I am very happy we have, since
“ it has been our introduction to all that
“ remains of our long lost, and lamented
“ friend.”

Having

Having now given your ladyship the conclusion of the Colonel's story, I shall bid you adieu;—and am,

With unfeigned regard,

Your's,

ELEONORA.

L E T.

LETTER XXVIII.

WHEN the Colonel ceased speaking Mr. and Mrs. Oswald joined me in congratulating him and his Lady upon so happy a termination of their distresses, and in wishing them a continuance of many happy years. Mrs. Eldridge then affectionately took my hand, and said,—
“ Now, my dear Miss Sheldon, that you
“ are convinced how strong a claim you
“ have upon us, and ours, permit me to
“ hope you will do us the honour of
“ thinking of us as of parents, whose fe-
“ licity centers in yours; and who, conse-
“ quently, must rejoice in every opportu-
“ nity of promoting it: we shall not rest
“ till we are acquainted with your con-
“ cerns, and know how and in what man-
“ ner we can pay to you and your sister
“ a part

“ a part of the very large debt we owe to
“ the memory of your uncle.—But, as
“ the evening is too far advanced to talk
“ farther upon the subject, we must in-
“ treat the favour of your company, with
“ Mr. and Mrs. Oswald, to dine with us
“ to-morrow.” “ Agreed !” cried Mrs.
Oswald, “ on certain conditions, which
“ I must first stipulate.” “ What are
“ they, Madam ?” said the Colonel.—
“ Why, Sir, that neither you or your
“ Lady”—replied Mrs. Oswald—“ make
“ use of spells or charms, or any of
“ the powers of witchcraft, to detach
“ Miss Sheldon from us ; for then we
“ should regard you as our greatest ene-
“ mies ; because the loss, to us, would
“ be irreparable, from the utter impossi-
“ bility of meeting with her equal.”

I could only blush my thanks for a com-
pliment which had its foundation evident-
ly in partiality.—After a few more civil
things, we parted ; and the character of my
uncle, together with the story combined
with

with it, were the only subjects discussed by us, the remaining part of the evening.

The next day we fulfilled our engagement, when I gave my new found friends a brief account of my past life; concluding with some serious remarks upon the goodness of God, in having so wonderfully preserved and provided for me; and, in the various situations into which I had been thrown, had prevented my ever feeling a state of dependence a painful one, except the short time I spent with Lady Barton and Mrs. Dudley; then, indeed, it was truly so. Colonel Eldridge and his Lady expressed the warmest esteem for the characters of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, and my much loved Mrs. Wright; and their conduct towards Harriet and me was loudly applauded. The Colonel demonstrated his esteem for them both by letters and presents: neither did they neglect my dear sister; and it was with difficulty I could prevail with them to suffer me to remain as I was.—They wished to make

me independent, but that I would by no means consent to, as I could not reconcile it to my ideas of equity, to accept an independence to the injury of those who had a *natural right* to their fortune:—neither was it in the power of wealth to add to my happiness, while deprived of Mr. Carlton. Miss Oswald, too, was making very rapid improvement under my instructions, and I could not have deserted her at so critical a period of her life without pain; it would have been making a very ungenerous return to her parents for all the kindness they had shewn me.—These objections, one after another, I raised to decline the Colonels offer; and from some hints he and his Lady gave me, I believe they thought I inherited a very large proportion of my mother's pride; as they were not the only persons who thought so, it is very possible they judged right.

However, it did not lessen our friendship towards each other, for I am still on the

the most cordial footing of intimacy with their whole family. During my residence in Yorkshire, we spent much time together; and the younger branches of it, to this hour, regard Harriet and me as their sisters. But, to return to my story. About two months after our first visit to the Colonel, I received a letter from Mrs. Wright, the contents of which afforded me singular satisfaction: she informed me that my sister, who had for the last five years supplied my place as her assistant, had some months ago attracted the attention of a very amiable young man, an Hamburgh merchant, who had seen her several times at Mr. Nelson's, where he took an opportunity to make her the offer of his hand, and preparations were now making for their speedy union.—She farther added, that the prospect of such an establishment for Harriet was a source of great delight to her, and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson; as it had the most flattering appearance of proving highly advantageous in every respect, the dear girl being tend-

derly attached to Mr. Wellingsford, whose affection for her was too apparent to be doubted; and the whole tenor of his conduct, from the time he first became the master of it, had been such as left no room to fear his rendering her happiness as compleat as could be expected in this state of mortality, and as permanent as their lives:—this excellent woman concluded with expressing her regret at the distance between us; and earnestly intreated me, if possible, to gratify her ardent desire of seeing me again, by visiting London upon this happy occasion.

It required a greater degree of stoicism than I possessed, to be able to refrain from communicating this pleasing intelligence to Mr. and Mrs. Oswald, who both very sincerely congratulated me upon it, and after a short pause the former said to me:—
“I need not ask, Miss Sheldon, if you intend accepting the invitation, for I am
“sure you must wish to do it; the importance of the occasion, and your very
“long

“ long separation from your best and ear-
“ liest friends, are inducements too power-
“ ful to be withstood.”—“ I shall, cer-
“ tainly, Sir,” returned I, “ be extreme-
“ ly rejoiced to join them upon this event;
“ and it affords me no small pleasure to
“ see that you are, in this instance, so
“ obliging to anticipate my wishes.”—
“ But, my dear,”—cried Mrs. Oswald ea-
“ gerly,—“ forgive me, if I say, I am half
“ afraid they will not let you return to us
“ again, and then I know not what must
“ become of poor Kate and her mamma,
“ I fear we shall make a full stop for the
“ rest of our lives ?”—I was going to reply,
“ but was prevented by Mr. Oswald’s
“ humourously saying,—“ Fye ! fye ! my
“ love, you disgrace your country ! you
“ a Yorkshire Woman, and not deep
“ enough to take better care of your own
“ interest than to leave such a circumstance
“ to chance !—now, to convince you, that
“ in the true spirit of my country I study
“ to promote my own advantage, I have
“ formed a plan to prevent our receiving

“ any injury, and I think it will meet your
“ approbation :—we will have the old
“ coach brushed up a bit, the springs well
“ greased, every thing about it made safe,
“ Dick and Joe shall have their best liveries
“ scoured, and then we will go all of us to
“ the great city together:—when there,
“ we can be spies upon the motion of our
“ Eleonora; and if we cannot bring her
“ back with general consent, we shall be
“ able to do it either by force or strata-
“ gem:—so now, what say you to my
“ scheme?”—“ I admire it very much,”
said Mrs. Oswald; “ and only want to
“ know when you intend to set out on this
“ grand expedition, that Kate and I may
“ be properly prepared.”—“ If you
“ mean,” returned he, “ to make any
“ preparations, you must be pretty quick
“ in doing it; but I fancy you will be
“ content to take all your *traps* just as they
“ are, for I have fixed to set out the day
“ after to-morrow; and pray do not forget
“ to let us have a *goose poy*, that we may
“ travel in the true *wrong-head* style; the
“ inside

“ inside of our *vehicle* perfectly con-
“ sistent with the outward appearance of
“ *that*, and our clownish domestics; who,
“ let me tell you, will cut but sorry figures
“ in London, though we think them tole-
“ rable clever fellows here.”

Here your Ladyship must allow me
to say adieu, or I shall not have room to
subscribe myself,

Your warm friend,

ELEONORA.

LETTER XXIX.

NO objection to the time being made by Mrs. Oswald, we began our journey on the day appointed, and had the happiness to reach London in health and safety.—It is impossible, my Lady, to describe the joy I felt at beholding again friends, so deservedly dear to me; their pleasure at the meeting equalled mine:—the few years I had been absent had made, in the person of my sister, a most striking alteration; I left her a blooming beautiful girl—I now found her an elegant lovely woman, embellished with every charm both personal and mental;—her appearance in every respect such, as to command admiration and love, while the humility of her deportment proclaimed her utterly unconscious of any perfection in herself:

self:—it was some hours before we could any of us converse rationally; all was rapture and incoherency:—when we had brought ourselves into proper order, mutual enquiries took place; and each in turn recounted every interesting occurrence that had happened during our separation:—in talking of Colonel Eldridge, I recollected a packet he had given in charge to me for Harriet; I delivered it to her, and on opening it she found letters from him and Mrs. Eldridge: they contained the most affectionate wishes for her happiness, and a very pressing invitation to her and Mr. Wellingford to accompany my party into Yorkshire, and spend a few weeks at their house:—inclosed in the Colonel's letter were bank bills to the amount of fifteen hundred pounds which he insisted upon her accepting for the purpose of purchasing bridal ornaments; we were delighted at this instance of generosity. Harriet, whose heart and eyes overflowed with grateful sensations, wrote immediately a letter of acknowledgement, sufficiently expressive of

her feelings; Mr. Wellingsford joined us time enough to add a postscript to convey his thanks, and assure them of his intention to comply with their friendly invitation:—before we separated for the night, Mrs. Wright engaged Mr. and Mrs. Nelson with their children to visit her daughter Eleonora at her house to dinner the following day, when Mr. and Mrs. Oswald called to see me, and I had the pleasure of introducing them to this beloved group; they were mutually pleased with each other and became afterwards intimate: but of all my friends, none I believe felt more real joy at seeing me than Miss Delmore; she was still with Mrs. Wright, by whom she was greatly esteemed: the sweet girl informed me that her last letters gave an account of the death of Mrs. Delmore, a circumstance truly afflictive to her, and painfully felt by me; her memory was dear to us both, and we wept over it:—of Miss Delmore I learned that my valued friend, Lady Charlotte Moreton, was in London, and anxiously wishing to see me; as I was

equally

equally desirous of seeing her, I wrote the first leisure moment to inform her of my arrival; she came to me immediately: her fine eyes beamed with delight—she clasped her arms round me, and embraced me with all the warmth of genuine, unaffected friendship. “My dear, my beloved Eleonora!” cried she,—“how tedious to me has been
 “this separation:—it is true you was
 “punctual in your correspondence, and
 “your letters gave me pleasure; but still
 “they were not yourself, and I sighed for
 “your charming conversation: thank heaven,
 “you are again restored to me, and
 “I hope no untoward circumstance will
 “oblige us very soon to part again: indeed,
 “Lady Charlotte,” cried I, “you will do
 “me but justice in believing that our separation
 “has been equally painful to me:—
 “but my circumstances you know rendered
 “it unavoidable; we cannot all
 “chuse our situations in life, yet mine has
 “hitherto been favourable Beyond what
 “I had any reason to expect; and the
 “great kindness I have experienced from

“ the few friends I have in Yorkshire, has
“ in a great measure endeared to me the
“ place, and the people:—to Mr. and Mrs.
“ Oswald I hold myself bound by every
“ tie of gratitude; and that compels me
“ to return and continue with them till
“ the education of their darling child is
“ compleated.” “ What !” said she with
“ astonishment; “ and are you positively
“ determined to go again into York-
“ shire ?”—“ Lady Charlotte,” I replied,
“ you are not unacquainted with my obli-
“ gations there; your own heart is the ha-
“ bitation of every virtue, and that would
“ teach you to despise me the moment
“ you perceived me deviating from the
“ path of rectitude.”—You are a strange,
“ unaccountable creature,”—interrupted
her Ladyship;—“ and speak a language
“ wholly unknown in the fashionable world;
“ I will not understand you;—but in order
“ to combat your argument, allow me to
“ say, that you do not consider things in a
“ proper light:—now I have penetration
“ enough to discover, that while you think
“ you

“ you are doing good by embellishing the
“ mind and manners of Miss Oswald, you
“ are in fact doing a very great injury!—
“ and I doubt whether you have not
“ already done the little chit an irrepar-
“ able mischief;—let me therefore advise
“ you to leave her at once.”—“ Bless me!
“ my Lady,” cried I, “ what can you mean!
“ you are talking to me in riddles!”—“ Oh!
“ they are very easily expounded,” returned
“ she; “ when you consider the set of be-
“ ings she is destined to live amongst; for
“ every degree of refinement she acquires,
“ will be a fresh source of misery to her,
“ in proportion as it disqualifies her for
“ the associate of an ignorant, uncultivated
“ race of mortals; who will only laugh at
“ the superiority of her understanding,
“ despise her for possessing accomplish-
“ ments they see no beauty in:—having
“ now, I think, clearly proved that you are
“ not doing all the good you imagine, let me
“ request you to accept an offer I am going
“ to make:—in the first place, my dear,
“ I must tell you that next Week I am
“ to

“ to metamorphose the humble suppliant
“ Charles Stanley,—you know him, Eleo-
“ nora,—into the lordly husband : I’ll not
“ deny that this said metamorphose will
“ make a principal part of my felicity; yet
“ it will not be compleat unless you con-
“ descend to favour me with your compa-
“ ny, and agree to live with me as a
“ *friend*:—do not mistake me for the little
“ tyrant Dudley, and suppose I want a
“ *bumble companion*; no, I am incapable
“ of such a thought; I want simply a
“ *friend*:—consent then, my dear Eleonora,
“ to my wishes, and grant me the supreme
“ delight of soothing and beguiling the
“ tedious hours, till the return of your
“ Carlton;—or till you can reconcile your
“ mind to the idea of giving your hand
“ to some other worthy man.” Her kind-
ness and generosity affected me even to
tears, and I was unable to reply for some
minutes; at length I said, “ My dear lady
“ Charlotte, I know the excellency of your
“ heart: no ignoble sentiment lurks there;
“ nor will I degrade you by any compari-
“ sons

sons with Mrs. Dudley—accept my most
“ grateful acknowledgements for your
“ friendly proposal : the remembrance of
“ your generosity will remain with me to
“ the latest period of my existence ;—but
“ pardon me that I cannot accede to your
“ desire :—I am convinced you will not be
“ offended with me, when you recollect
“ that I have already refused an indepen-
“ dency from Colonel Eldridge, whose
“ gratitude to the memory of my uncle,
“ combined with his compassion for me,
“ produced the noble offer :—my situation
“ at present is very pleasing to me :—at
“ Mr. Oswald’s I have the satisfaction of
“ knowing myself to be useful, and I feel
“ none of the weight of dependence :—
“ with you it would be far otherwise :—
“ I should be both useless and unneces-
“ sary ; and though I am well convinced
“ you would not treat me in any re-
“ spect unworthy of yourself or me, —yet
“ I should feel my dependence, and the
“ consciousness of that, on each side, would
“ lay a painful restraint upon the freedom
“ of

“ of friendship, which in all probability
“ would render us mutually unhappy.—
“ Cease, then, my dearest Lady Charlotte,
“ to urge me farther on the subject,—and
“ let me return without murmuring, to my
“ late peaceful abode, where your charming
“ letters shall console me for the loss of
“ your more charming society.” “ I see
“ plainly,” said her Ladyship, “ you
“ have lost none of your former perverseness,
“ and it would be but waste of words
“ to attempt convincing you that you are
“ wrong, since I am sure I should gain
“ nothing by it at last;—and indeed you
“ deter me from enforcing my request by
“ persuasion, by talking of its putting a
“ restraint on the freedom of our friendship:
“—God forbid any thing should
“ ever arise to cause that to happen, for
“ then friendship ceases to be no more than
“ a name,—and I would not lose yours for
“ the wealth of worlds; notwithstanding
“ you are so cruel to deny me full enjoyment
“ of it in the way I wish:—but not to
“ persecute you, I will endeavour to rest

“contented with your decision; only promise to indulge me with your company for one week before your departure?”

To this I readily consented, and passed a very happy one with her; she and Mr. Stanley frequently turned the conversation upon the dear object of my fondest affections, Mr. Carlton; they flattered me with hopes of his returning and laying his laurels at my feet;—but I hardly dared to cherish the fond idea, having received, a few days before my visit to them, a letter from him of the same tenor with all the preceding ones, without a single expression to convey a more tender sentiment than friendship; in it he informed me, that he had risen to the rank of major; a circumstance from which I derived pleasure, founded on the hope that it would facilitate his return to England, by enabling him to make a fortune with more speed.

After spending an agreeable six weeks in London, I again set out for Yorkshire:—
the

the Colonel and Mrs. Eldridge, with their son and his lady, did us the honour of coming half a day's journey to meet us upon the road:—the pleasure of seeing them was heightened by its being wholly unexpected:—they were much pleased with Harriet, but their friendly regards were not confined to *her* alone—Mr. Wellingford deserved—therefore could not fail of possessing an equal portion of their esteem.—Mr. Oswald invited them very warmly to pass some part of their time at his house, but the Colonel told him, that if he said another word upon the subject, he would *spring a mine* and blow him up, for they were *his* guests and he would by no means part with them;—so Mr. Oswald was obliged to give up the point, and, contrary to Mr. Wellingford's first intention, he and my sister were detained amongst us upwards of two months; in the course of which we visited Scarborough, Harrogate, and Thorp Arch, in company with the Colonel's family, and Mr. Oswald's:—at the two former places I saw many persons with

with whom I had been acquainted, while at Mr. Delmore's; but their notices now were very cool, doubtless owing to my not appearing with so much *eclat* as I had done formerly.—I had seen too much of the world to be either surprized or hurt at this; for what can be expected from persons, whose choice of *intimates* depend as much upon fashion, as the choice and make of their *cloaths*.:—but I am sure your Ladyship must be nearly as weary of reading as I am of writing, I shall therefore say no more than that

I am,

your esteemed

ELEONORA.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXX.

THE departure of my sister and Mr. Wellingsford, affected me deeply, but the certainty of her happiness helped me to conquer, in a short time, the depression of spirits which the loss of her engaging company had caused: the duties of my employ were another very powerful assistant, to these I assiduously applied myself, and received from my endeavours that delight success alone could give.—Miss Oswald became the wonder of all who were qualified to judge of her accomplishments; to *me* the whole merit was ascribed; and it made me so much the object of admiration and esteem, that I should have been perfectly happy; nor would a wish to change my situation ever have obtruded itself into my thoughts, could have wholly detached them from
the

the dear possessor of my heart, my much loved Carlton! but it was impossible,—for hopeless as I was, yet my attachment gained strength daily, in spite of all my efforts, and the arguments used by my best friends to persuade me to conquer it.—Mrs. Herbert was the only person in Yorkshire to whom this, the choicest secret of my heart, was known:—she would sometimes soothe and pity, at others blame *me*, and reflect upon *him* as acting disingenuously:—but she was then ignorant of the noble motives from whence his conduct proceeded, and has since exculpated him from every charge:—but to quit digressing;—I had continued four years at Mr. Oswald's after my sister's marriage, when by letters from her and Mrs. Nelson, I was informed that my highly valued friend and benefactress, Mrs. Wright, was, to the great grief of all who knew her, confined to her chamber, by a slow-consuming illness; and from her great age, it was very unlikely she should ever recover so far as to be able to leave her room; nor could

it

it be supposed she would last long:—this intelligence afflicted me exceedingly; the idea of losing her for ever, filled me with horror, and anguish inexpressible. I instantly determined to go to London, and by devoting myself intirely to her service, at once demonstrate my gratitude towards her, and gratify my own feelings by the performance of that duty which I owed to her, and which I considered as nothing less than filial—Mr. and Mrs. Oswald, with my sweet Kate, expressed the greatest reluctance at parting with me; but they entertained too just sentiments of propriety to say a syllable in opposition to my design; they took great pains to extort a promise from me to return to them, when it suited my conveniency. I, however, declined giving one, as I knew Miss Oswald did not require any farther assistance from me, and we parted with many tears shed on each side.

As I knew my sister was in a situation that made it necessary to avoid giving her
any

any surprize, I went immediately on my arrival in town to the house of Mr. Nelson ; where, as my appearance was quite unexpected, I had the disappointment of finding none but servants at home; the young folks were out of town, Mrs. Nelson had been all day with Mrs. Wright, and Mr. Nelson was just gone to her there:—hearing this, I wrote a hasty note to Mrs Nelson, acquainting her with the cause of my journey, and requesting her to inform Mrs. Wright of my arrival, as I intended going to her that night. I dispatched this by one of the servants, and, giving him proper precaution, desired him to call in his way, at Mr. Wellingford's, and request him to come directly; in a very short time after, he entered the room and with the most affectionate cordiality welcomed me to town, warmly inviting me to make his house my abode; but I declined the favour, by telling him my fixed intention of going to Mrs. Wright; he knew my obligations there and had much too good an heart to say a word to frustrate

frustrate my design:—he then informed me that his dear Harriet was well, and had been long ardently wishing for the happiness of seeing me, that she might present her little Eleonora to her aunt:—as I equally wished to see them both, Mr. Wellingsford went to prepare her for such an unlooked for interview, and bring her to me. He but just left me, when a carriage stopped at the door, and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson ran hastily up stairs, and welcomed me with transporting joy, which I could only return with my tears, for my heart was nearly dissolved in tender sensations:—Mrs. Nelson, after looking attentively at me for some time exclaimed with fervor—
“ My love! my Eleonora!—you shall never leave us more:—we always admired
“ and esteemed you, but none of us knew
“ half your intrinsic worth, till the last
“ short visit you paid us:—while you was
“ at Mr. Delmore’s, your virtues were but
“ in the bud; in the shade of retirement
“ they have blossomed and matured:—
“ when you was gone a second time into
Yorkshire,

“Yorkshire, we had leisure to contem-
“plate your character, and the conse-
“quence was an unceasing regret for your
“loss:—your mamma Wright,” she con-
tinued, “is greatly revived by hearing
“that you are come, but she lays her com-
“mands upon you not to think of going
“to her to-night, but to take some re-
“freshment, retire early to bed, and lay
“till you have recruited your strength and
“spirits; you know, my dear, she *will* be
“obeyed, so you must not attempt to
“stir; let it suffice you to learn from me,
“that she is better than she has been for
“a week past.”

This rejoiced my heart, and a dawn of
hope that she might recover transfused
through my soul and filled me with delight
ineffable, while in silent ejaculation I offer-
ed up my thanksgiving to the benign au-
thor of all good. Mr. Wellingford soon
returned with my sister, followed by the
nurse and child. I will not attempt a de-
scription of the interview with Harriet: it

was such as alarmed Mr. Wellingford, who was tenderly anxious for her; and dreading the consequence that might result from her excess of sensibility, gently gave a turn to our thoughts, by putting his little Eleonora into my arms. Never, my dear madam, did I experience a sensation equal to what I felt at that moment; no words can do justice to it; I gazed upon her with ecstasy, while the smiling cherub clasping her little hands round my neck, and fondly kissing me said in most melodious accents, "my dea pitty artee! dood artee; "to run to see Elly;—but you musn't ky "artee:—Elly ky too if you do."—In this manner did the sweet prattler run on, and her voice was more pleasing to my ears than the finest band of music, playing the finest composition in the world; and to do her justice, she was never deficient in gratifying me, for her little tongue scarce ever laid still but when she slept. Mr. and Mrs. Wellingford staid supper, but my extreme fatigue rendering me unable to converse they departed early, and my kind friend

friend Mrs. Nelson conducted me immediately to my chamber, where I reposed till very late the next morning.—I will now leave your Ladyship to your repose, and pursue my narrative in my next; meantime

I remain,

your faithful friend,

ELEONORA.

LETTER XXXI.

MRS. Nelson entered my chamber as soon as I was awake; and after the usual tender enquiries concerning my health, informed me that a messenger from mamma Wright was below; I eagerly asked what intelligence, and had the satisfaction to hear that my valuable friend was not any worse; this again renewed my hopes, and I expressed them to Mrs. Nelson, who only answered with a shake of her head and left me:—before I was dressed my sister came; the first glance I had of her convinced me she had not suffered by those emotions which the unexpected sight of me had caused the preceding evening;—radiant health sat blooming on her cheek, and serene heart-felt happiness sat smiling in her eye. I took a hasty breakfast, and then, accompanied

panied by Harriet and Mrs. Nelson, drove to Mrs. Wright, who was impatiently expecting me.—I entered her apartment with a chearful air, derived from the flattery of hope ;—judge then, my dear madam, of the bitterness of my sensations, when I beheld her once lovely features distorted by a paralytic stroke !—her countenance overspread with a death-like paleness ! and her whole form almost reduced to a shadow !—I could not speak,—tears denied their relief,—I was instantaneously seized with an universal tremor and sickness,—and no longer able to support it, I turned quickly out of the room and sunk down in a fainting fit :—on recovering I found myself upon the floor with Mrs. Nelson and a maid-servant, assiduously trying to restore, while the former wept over me with maternal anxiety ; one look at her sufficed to dissolve me to tears, by which I was presently relieved, and able to appear again in the presence of Mrs. Wright :—as I advanced towards her she held out her poor feeble hand saying,—“draw near my child,

“and let me embrace you:—Eleonora, all
“my earthly happiness centers in *you*; you
“are the object of my tenderest affec-
“tions:—but why, my love, are you thus
“shocked at seeing an alteration in me,
“which my *age* might have taught you
“to expect long ago;—indeed, you must
“have more fortitude;—you distress me by
“this excess of grief, so inconsistent with
“that humble submission which the reli-
“gion of Jesus dictates to us.” “Oh! my
“more than parent,” cried I eagerly, “my
“dear, my exalted friend! can I see you
“thus, and not feel pangs unutterable!
“Eleonora,” returned she with a degree
of solemnity, while her dear face was
“suffused by the radiance of pious hope,
“you dignify me with the title of *exalted*
“friend,—and I trust, my dear, I am shortly
“going to be *exalted* indeed!—to the
“highest state of bliss,—to a crown of
“unfading righteousness, amongst the
“spirits of the just, made perfect,—where
“I shall join the general assembly and
“church of the first born, who are writ-

“ten

"ten in Heaven;—this glorious prospect
"is *my* support at present; let it, my love,
"be *your* consolation hereafter."

Thus did this angelic woman endeavour to reconcile my mind to the severe impending stroke, while herself at times underwent great pain, which she supported without a murmuring word, and in every interval of ease was serenely cheerful:—to the astonishment of all about her she survived near a year, but was never able to leave her room; and I confined myself with her so closely as to make her often fear for my health, and insist upon my going out for the benefit of air:—to keep her easy I complied, yet not without feeling extreme reluctance, and my anxiety prevented my ever being absent more than half an hour at a time. We were very frequently visited by ministers and other pious friends; Mrs. Nelson and Harriet were almost constantly with us, as was the amiable Lady Charlotte Stanley, whose company was as pleasing to Mrs. Wright as to me; for her vivacity

though great, was at all times preserved within proper bounds, and the fund of good-sense and genuine unaffected piety she possessed, made her a fit companion for the afflicted, and a comfortable appendage to the chamber of a dying christian:—but alas! my “dreadful post of observation growing darker every hour,” shut out from me all consolation:—allow me again to speak in the words of the justly celebrated Dr. Young, and add, “how oft I have gazed prophetically sad; how oft I saw her dead, while yet in smiles.” Mrs. Wright’s situation was such as admitted not one ray of hope,—it “forbids *self love itself* to flatter there.”—The day before her dissolution, I was sitting by her bed-side in a state of mind rendered almost torpid with grief, which she perceiving addressed me thus:—
“Eleonora, my love, death is making
“hasty approaches towards me, but he
“comes disarmed of all his terrors:—
“blessed be God, the *sting* of death is taken away, and I am secure of everlasting
“bliss, through the mediation of Jesus
“Christ,

" Christ, and the merits of his all suffi-
 " ent atonement; on this *alone* do I de-
 " pend, nor shall I find my dependence
 " vain; the eye of faith enables me to look
 " up to the bright regions of glory, and
 " behold millions of happy spirits ready to
 " welcome me at the entrance of the ever-
 " lasting gates, crying hail! thou that
 " art come out of great tribulation, and
 " have washed your robe, and made it
 " white in the blood of the lamb; we will
 " unite in singing the song of the re-
 " deemed!"—she ceased here, and dozed
 for the space of ten minutes, then conti-
 nued, " I have now, my dear, no con-
 " cern but for what you will feel for my
 " loss; your sensibility is strong, yet I trust
 " the religion you profess will enable you
 " to acquiesce in the decrees of providence
 " with humble resignation; almighty
 " goodness has seen fit to spare me as long
 " as I had the power of being useful to
 " you and Harriet; let the remembrance
 " of this, Eleonora, assist you to give
 " me up with submission to that God who
 " takes

"I take not what he says;—we shall shortly,"
 "my dear, meet again to part no more for
 "ever. Do not then repine that I am going"
 "to be disencumbered from the shackles
 "of mortality, and enter a little before
 "you into that rest where there shall be
 "no more sickness or pain, and sorrow
 "and sighing shall flee away." She now
 dropped asleep again, and Lady Char-
 lotte entered the room:—in a few mi-
 nutes Mrs. Wright awaked, and expressed
 much pleasure at seeing her: "My
 "dear Lady Charlotte," cried she, "you
 "are come to take of me a last farewell, for
 "ere to morrow dawns my immortal part
 "will return to its great original, and
 "I shall be numbered amongst the dead."
 "I have formerly taken pains to instruct
 "Eleonora by precept how a christian
 "ought to live; my example, I humbly
 "trust, will convince you both, how hap-
 "pily a christian dies."

Mrs. Wright and her Ladyship then
 entered into some very serious converse,
 and

and the former recollecting an hymn which Lady Charlotte had some months before translated from the french of Monsieur de Barreaux, in the spectator, beginning "*Grand Dieu tes jugemens,*" she requested her to read it as it was applicable to their discourse; her Ladyship complied immediately, and as it is suitable to the foregoing part of my letter, I make no apology for transcribing it here:

Great God! how all thy judgements stand

Array'd in Equity's mild drefs,
For man the fav'rite of thy hand

'Tis thy supreme delight to bless:

But plung'd so deep in guilt's black sea,

In vain to thee for grace I bend;

For could thy *Mercy* smile on me,

Her smiles stern *Justice* would offend.

Thy clemency insulted still,

Now pleads against me at thy throne,

And leaves to thy Almighty will

The choice of punishment alone.

Strike, Lord!—and render war for war

On this rebellious son of dust;

Yes!—I'll adore thy awful Law,

And, sinking, own thy vengeance just.

'Tis *just* thy *thunders* strike this heart,
Which has so long thy *love* withstood;
But where—where can they find a part
Unsprinkled by a SAVIOUR'S BLOOD.

While her Ladyship was reading the two last lines, Mrs Wright's countenance beamed ineffable delight; then raising herself up upon the pillow, she with energetic warmth and holy rapture repeated them in a manner that affected us both:—towards night we perceived a very visible change take place in her—this made Lady Charlotte kindly insist upon staying to sit up with me:—about three in the morning I had left the room a few minutes to prepare some necessaries, when her Ladyship sent to desire me to return immediately:—I approached the bed and eagerly asked what was the matter. “Nothing to alarm you, my love,” said Mrs. Wright, with a heavenly smile, “only the separating struggle between the mortal and the *immortal* part:—it is over now, and I shall soon bid adieu to *sub-lunary* things.” After a short pause, she

“ ex-

" exclaimed, " I have sinned, but *Christ*
" has died;—in *him* is my redemption
" complete;—on the cross he proclaimed,
" *it is finished.*"

After laying a few minutes very composed, she desired me to raise her up a little, which I did, supporting her in my arms; she then held out one of her hands to Lady Charlotte, who clasped it with both her's, weeping, while Mrs. Wright said to her,—
" My dear friendly Charlotte, farewell;—
" God be with you,—may he be the
" strength of your hope, and your portion for ever:"—then turning her dying eyes upon *me*, she added, " my beloved
" Eleonora, farewell!—I commend you to
" that almighty friend who will *never* forsake you—*my* spirit is taking its flight—
" I ascend to *my* father, and to *your* father—
" to *my* God and to *your* God."—

She uttered no more, but, dropping her dear head upon my bosom, expired without a groan, and I fell senseless beside her:—

ment, I started, but permitted her to conduct me to the corpse; when I threw myself by the side of all that remained of my honoured benefactress, and a most violent burst of tears came to my aid:—their violence in a little time abated, and gave place to the gentler streams of tender distress, which her Ladyship perceiving, said,—“Indulge your tears, my dearest
“Eleonora, and sacred be your sorrows,
“for too highly do I respect their source to
“wish to interrupt or restrain them:—
“our divine redeemer himself wept at the
“grave of Lazarus; and shall not you
“then be allowed to weep over the re-
“mains of her who, with parental tenderness,
“reared you to maturity, and whose
“bright example and pious precepts directed
“you to the only path that leads to
“real happiness?—your tears are a tribute
“justly due to her memory:—but while
“yielding to the impulse of friendship
“and gratitude, forget not the dying injunctions
“of the friend, to be resigned,
“and trust a faithful God.”

On

On recovering, I found myself in another apartment, surrounded by Lady Charlotte, two maids, and the physician, whom they had sent for:—he ordered me to be put to bed, and to take a gentle composing draught directly:—they did as he directed, without meeting any opposition from me, for nature was so overpowered by fatigue and grief, that I was quite helpless. Mrs. Nelson and Harriet, who had been sent to, came soon after, and the former staid to take care of me:—the effects of the draught I had taken were not gone off till near nine the next morning, when I awoke to all the bitterness of distress:—my heart seemed bursting, yet not all the tender lamentations of the sympathizing friends about me could draw a tear from my eyes.—At length I had a visit from Lady Charlotte, who observing the melancholy state I was in, and apprehending it too dangerous to be suffered to continue, took my hand and led me, insensibly, to the chamber of death:—on her opening the door of Mrs. Wright's apartment,

In this manner did the amiable creature endeavour to sooth and compose me, nor was her attempt ineffectual, for I presently found myself much better:—but I have dwelt so long upon this melancholy theme, that my spirits are too much depressed by the recollection to suffer me to proceed.

I remain, therefore,

most tenderly yours,

ELEONORA.

LET
opening the door of Mrs. Wright's apart-

L E T T E R XXXII.

MRS. Wright had by her will left me all that remained of her property, after payment of her debts, and giving rings to a few friends whom she named in it, but in the situation she had been it was not to be expected she could leave much; the sum was indeed very trifling. After her interment I set about adjusting her affairs, which took me up near three months to complete. Mrs. Grafton (a widow, who had been assistant to Mrs. Wright from the time of Harriet's marriage) was desirous of taking the school, and my wishes to favour her led me to settle every thing respecting it to her satisfaction. She took the furniture as it stood, and I indulged her with paying for it as it suited her convenience, for which she was not deficient in gratitude,

gratitude, but returned the favour by taking some pains to make every thing as agreeable to me as she could, during the time I staid with her, which I had determined upon doing till all was finished between us, and I was again situated in some family in the station I had been in before. I was now affectionately entreated by my brother-in-law to take up my future residence with my sister and him. Lady Charlotte and Mrs. Stanlèy too again renewed the offer the former had made me once before, and each party were so very urgent that had my inclinations led me to accept the offer of either, it would have been a difficulty to me to have known which to prefer; but my heart felt an unconquerable reluctance to a state of useless dependance, and I therefore declined the favour, by saying, " My dear friends, " I am too well acquainted with the goodness of your hearts to entertain any " doubts of your kindness towards me; " nor do I fear your being offended with " me for not accepting your generous proposal,

“posal, when I tell you that I am well as-
“sured delicacy on your parts would make
“me an useless being in either of your
“families, which by regular gradations
“would soon cause me to be a very trou-
“blesome one : with you I should be left
“at liberty to chuse my own employment :
“in the present state of my mind I well
“know that nothing less than necessity,
“springing from the strongest ideas of
“duty, could possibly lead me to chuse
“any employment at all ; and thus, left to
“myself, I am conscious that my time
“would be wholly unoccupied by any
“other than my own melancholy reflecti-
“ons, the consequence of which would be
“my health, perhaps my life, falling a
“sacrifice to my inactivity :—suffer me
“then to intreat you to use no farther
“persuasions.”

Finding me determined they desisted, but
Mr. Wellingsford turning to Harriet, said
to her with a smile,—which I presently
comprehended the meaning of—“Pray, my
“love,

“love is not our sister Eleonora very like
“her mamma?”—“I am told,” said Lady
Charlotte, “that it is impossible for any
“copy to bear a *stronger* resemblance to
“the original!”—“I understand you perfectly,”—cried I,—“but believe me, my
“determination is not as you suggest, the
“result of pride; possibly when my mind
“is restored to ease and chearfulness, I may
“give you a convincing proof that I am
“not afraid to receive favours from any
“of you”:—they all appeared satisfied
with this assurance, and we parted with the
usual cordiality:—the same evening I was
favoured with a letter from Mrs. Delmore,
in answer to one I had wrote informing her
of the decease of my friend; she expressed
herself very feelingly upon the subject, and
concluded with a very pressing invitation
to me to go down to Exeter, and stay with
her. I should have told you before that
Mr. Delmore had returned to England
soon after the death of his wife, and in
compliance with the inclinations of his
daughter had purchased an estate in De-
vonshire,

vonshire, and settled there;—as I knew I could be of no use to Miss Delmore I had the same objections to accepting *her* invitation; and as I wished to settle myself with speed, I resolved to advertise in one of the papers, and I did it the next day, without consulting any one about it.—I had many letters, in consequence of it, directing me where to apply for employment:—the first I went to was the wife of a common-council man, who kept an oil-shop in the city: on my admission to her presence, she did not, as I expected, ask me to sit down, but kept her seat and looking scornfully at me said,—“So child, you are the young *oo-*”
 “*man* that wants a place, I suppose?”
 I curtesied, and she proceeded thus:
 “by your deep mourning, I take it, you
 “are the daughter of some foolish trades-
 “man, in the mechanic line, that has
 “brought you up above your station, and
 “now his death forces you to go out in
 “the world to get your bread; but if you
 “comes to me, you must nt bedizen
 “yourself out in any such manner: no
 ; old”
 “thing

"thing but pity for you, child, would
"make me think of taking you at all;
"for as you ha'nt been out before, to be
"sure you'd have every thing to learn."
"I fancy, Madam," said I, "we are
"under a mutual mistake; for you seem
"to want a *menial servant*, and I apprehend,
"from your letter, that you
"wanted a person in the quality of a *tu-*
"tor *ess* to your daughter." "To be
"sure, so I do," cried she; "but teaching
"my *darter* would'nt employ one half of
"your time, and I desire no idlers about
"me; so if I hire you, you must look
"after my youngest child, a year and a half
"old; make and mend for 'em both;
"clear starch all my fine things; make up
"my common caps; and occasionally lay
"the cloth and wait at table, when the
"butler's employed in the business: in
"short, you must do any thing you are
"set about, without grumbling." "I am
"sorry, Madam," I replied, smiling at
"her folly," "to have given you this trou-
"ble;

"ble; but really such an employ is by
 "no means suited to me," "Oh! ant
 "it," returned she,— "Well, child, I wish
 "you well: but I am very sorry for you;
 "I see your doom: you will not be long;
 "I fear, before you are on the town."
 My cheeks glowed with indignation at
 her vulgar indelicacy to which I only re-
 plied, looking contemptuously at her,
 "I have no doubt of your being as much
 "mistaken in that opinion, as you are
 "in every other you have formed re-
 "specting me, my situation, and circum-
 "stances."

Having said this, I left her, without
 deigning a curtesy.—The next I waited
 upon, was, as I afterwards found, the wife
 of a carcase butcher; who, having acquir-
 ed a large fortune, kept his coach and
 country house,—if it could be called so
 with propriety, being only three miles
 from town:—thither I was directed, and
 accordingly went by the stage. She pro-
 ved as low bred a dame as the former; for,
 after

after a queer look, she said, "you wont
 "do for me, I can assure you; for I wants
 "no *handsome* flirts about me: if I was to
 "take you now, I suppose as how it
 "would be not long afore you would re-
 "ward me for it, by inveigling my hus-
 "band from me." I made her no reply,
 but came away directly; and, to tell you
 the real truth, I was so sick of my adver-
 tising scheme, that I determined to go after
 no more of the people, who had sent to
 me.—

On my return, I told Mrs. Grafton
 what I had done, and the ill success it had
 been attended with. "Ah! my dear Ma-
 "dam!" cried she, "I have gone through
 "all the drudgery of it myself for a long
 "time without success, and despaired of
 "ever being settled to my satisfaction;
 "when a kind Providence threw me into
 "the way of our lamented friend, Mrs.
 "Wright: let my experience, Miss Shel-
 "don, influence you to have no more to
 "do with advertizing; depend upon it you
 "will

"will never find it answer." I told her I was determined to have done with it, and so our conversation ended, and left me very low in spirits and wholly at a loss what course to take :—but adieu.

With real esteem,

I am yours,

ELEONORA.

L E T T E R, XXXIII.

AS I was sitting alone in the afternoon, ruminating upon the prospect before me, I heard Mr. Nelson asking for his ward; I ran and opened the parlour door, when, advancing towards me with a chearful air, he said, "Well, Eleonora, does not your heart anticipate me, by telling you my business?"—"A packet from India!" cried I impatiently.—"You are right," returned he, producing it; "and as usual brings its accompanymen-
"A gentleman delivered it to me just now, together with this small box, requesting me to take particular care of both. He was, he said, but just arrived, and very impatient to see his friends, therefore declined sitting down, and his hurry pre-

“ prevented me from asking how he had
 “ left the major.”

I was so entirely engrossed by the dear letter, that I heard not one word Mr. Nelson had said: but when I had finished reading, was obliged to give him the trouble of repeating it. On opening the box, the first thing I saw was a miniature resemblance of the Major, to shew me—as he said—the disadvantageous alteration which time, and various other circumstances combined, had made in his looks: perhaps had his personal beauty been the sole object of my admiration, this picture might have effected my cure; but as that was not the case, my partiality led me to think it still handsomer than any face I had ever seen, and I gazed upon it with inexpressible delight,—though I freely confess that the alteration was great indeed; his features enlarged, and his complexion bronzed very much, with the addition of a small scar in his right cheek; and, as that was a mark of honour, I suppose he would not have

omitted dignifying the portrait with it, upon any account: but the charms of which I was enamoured were sufficient to compensate for much greater personal defects; the perfections of his mind and the goodness of his heart, where dwelled every virtue that can adorn humanity, were more than a counterpoise. On examining farther into the contents of this box, I found a few rough diamonds, which by a note he had enclosed with them, he desired me to accept for the purpose of purchasing with them a few ornaments more useful to me.—These, Mr. Nelson, at my request, undertook to dispose of for me: professed himself totally ignorant of their value, but said he would act cautiously not to part with them for less than their worth,—of which I was well assured, and expressed my thanks for his kindness.—

After engaging me to dine at his house the next day to learn the success of his negotiation, he left me, as he archly observed, to converse with my new companion, who though dumb and inanimate, would afford me

me more agreeable entertainment than any other."—My heart acknowledged the truth of his remark, and he was no sooner gone than I retired to my own apartment, where taking from my pocket the dear resemblance of my Carlton, I kissed and wept over that and his letter by turns. In the midst of this luxury, I was interrupted by Mrs. Grafton, who came to ask me if I was ready for tea.—I hastily put the miniature in my pocket, and rose to admit her.—With a look full of friendly concern, she enquired what had thus distressed me; at which I smiled through my tears, and answered that what she saw was only the effects of joy, on having just received a packet from a long absent, and much valued friend abroad: she was too delicate to enquire further, and we went down together and spent a pleasant evening, my spirits being rather more elated than usual.

The next day I went to Mr. Nelson's, and, to my surprize, was informed by him that

that he had agreed to take four hundred and fifty pounds for my diamonds, and was to deliver them and receive the money that afternoon. I was much struck with this instance of Major Carlton's generous disinterested friendship, and could not avoid viewing it as a strong proof of a more tender attachment, though I was utterly at a loss what reason to assign for his concealment of it. At the first of his going abroad, I frequently in my letters remonstrated against his sending me such presents, but he argued down all my scruples in the most delicate manner, and still continued transmitting them; nor did I feel the weight of obligation painful, as I should have done from any other person. His last present gave me peculiar pleasure, because the interest arising from that, added to what I had before, was sufficient to relieve me from the disagreeable necessity of accepting a salary, though it was insufficient for my sole support.—But what afforded me real joy was a slight hint he gave

gave in his letter of his intention to return to England, as soon as he could settle all his affairs for that purpose: yet even this joy was transient, and I relapsed again into the same depression of spirits I experienced before I heard from him. I wrote to him by the first ship bound to that part of India he was in, and my letter was tinged throughout with a melancholy sadness I did not intend to convey to him. In it I gave an affecting account of the death of Mrs. Wright; spoke of my own unsettled situation and my dejected state of mind, in consequence of both these events. A few days had elapsed after dispatching it, and I still remained unsettled.—One evening, when I returned from visiting my sister, Mrs. Grafton, with apparent pleasure, said to me, “since you went out, “ Miss Sheldon, I have had a visit from “ a friend of mine, who told me she had “ at her house some country friends, who “ were come up for the purpose of engag- “ ing a governess for their child, but have “ not

G 4

“ not yet been successful enough to meet
“ with one likely to suit. I immediately
“ thought of you, whom I have taken
“ the liberty to mention; and I am cer-
“ tain have said sufficient to secure you
“ the most polite reception, if you chuse
“ to call upon them to-morrow morning,
“ and genteel treatment hereafter if you
“ fix with them. They are, I find,” ad-
ded she, “ possessed of a very large for-
“ tune, and reside in Cambridgeshire;
“ their name is Knowles, which is all I
“ know about them.”

I thanked her very cordially, and went
the following morning to Mrs. Knowles,
with whom I soon came to an agreement,
and in the middle of the next week accom-
panied her home in her carriage. The
day on which we left London was the first
of my seeing Mr. Knowles: I was far
from being delighted with him then, and
I was not long in discovering that all his
virtues were merely negative.—But I am
interrupted, and must defer any further
account

account of him or his family till my next.

—In the mean time,

I still remain,

Your Ladyship's

Affectionate friend,

ELEONORA.

G 5 LET.

LETTER XXXIV.

MR. Knowles being an only child, and heir to a very considerable estate had been suffered to follow the bent of his own inclinations from his infancy; his mother, who was at that time left a widow having the sole direction of him, and her fondness extending to a degree of weakness not very uncommon, would scarce suffer him out of her sight. Thus by associating in his boyish days more with *our* sex than his *own*, his mind and manners became equally effeminized; he so perfectly understood every article of female dress, that he would descant for an hour upon the beauties or deformities of a cap or trimming; in his own dress he was exact to an extreme degree, infomuch that it was almost impossible to look at him without supposing him
the

the *doll of fashion*, just taken out of a band box to be exhibited as a model for taylors, hair dressers, &c. had not his great volubility destroyed the idea. From what I have already said, you will conclude his learning must have been very superficial; it was just enough to render him despicably conceited, and to convince others that he was little better than a fool: had my spirits been as good as formerly they were, he would have been a rich source of entertainment for me, as I should often have amused myself with developing his character, by humouring those follies I had not abilities to amend in him; but to do him justice, he took care to make any trouble of that kind needless, by clearly expanding himself to the view of every observer: his vanity led him to aspire to oratory in his common conversation, for which purpose he gleaned the dictionary for high sounding words, and while he pronounced them properly, was in general certain to misplace them most miserably; yet such was the high opinion he had of his own understanding:

and knowledge, that he would eagerly seize all opportunities to display it, by explaining, in his way, the particular signification of expressions, some times even the most common ones. I was once much diverted by a circumstance of this kind; Mr. Watkins, an old gentleman in the neighbourhood, who, with fine sense, sound judgement, and solid learning, was, from a gouty habit, apt to be sometimes a little splenetic—was one day drinking tea with us, and giving me an interesting account of the taking of the Havannah, (a scene in which he had been actively engaged, having spent many years in the naval service of his country) unfortunately happened to say that the sailors gave great *assistance*,—Mr. Knowles instantly interrupted him, to explain to me what *assistance* implied, in the sense Mr. Watkins used it:—the old gentleman bore it till his patience was quite exhausted, when starting from his chair, he exclaimed:—“ Enough said!—Enough said!—I hate a multiplicity of words about *nothing*:—Z—nds, Knowles, you
are

“are determined to drive me mad, with
“your *nonsensical explanations*;—by G—d
“you have thrown the whole story out of
“my head;—why can’t you confine your
“self to your toy-shop,”—an appellation
by which he always distinguished Mr.
Knowles’s house, and it was truly applica-
ble to it, as you will presently understand.
Knowles begged his pardon; after which,
Mr. Watkins taking up his story and his
seat together, went on without farther
interruption. When he was departed, Mr.
Knowles said to me, with an air of self con-
sequence,—“Lord! Miss Sheldon, what
“an insignificant old man that is; he has
“devoted his whole life to one of the
“elements,—for you must know, ma’am,
“that we men of scientific *denuciations*,
“controwert four things amongst the vari-
“ous *defluxions* of nature’s great *infusions*,
“by the name of elements.—Water is one
“of the four, no matter whether it is sea
“water or river water, snow water or rain
“water, or any other *system* of water, still
“it is all upon an elementary footing, and
must

“ must, of course, be an element; you ap-
“ prehend me:—but as I was saying, Wat-
“ kins has devoted himself to all the *ani-*
“ *mosities* of that, and nothing else; and
“ now he thinks all other *imperceptibilities*
“ nonsense;—but observe me, Miss Shel-
“ don, you will seldom meet with a sea-
“ faring man that understands any thing
“ of the *superficial* pleasures that spring
“ from a true taste for the study of *vertu*;
“ nothing but the most *involuntary merito-*
“ *rious* ignorance could have made Wat-
“ kins tell me the other day, when I was
“ shewing him that curious piece of old
“ Roman-coin that I paid fifty guineas for
“ in London; (the antiquarianism of which
“ is easily *anticipated* by the *description* be-
“ ing quite worn off, so that it looks just
“ like a smooth old half-penny) I say, what
“ but ignorance could make him tell me,
“ that he did not think it worth so much
“ as a new coined farthing, with the head
“ of King George the third upon it—ha!
“ ha! ha! he’s a tolerable old neighbour,

so

“ so I let him have his joke, while I laugh
“ at his folly.”

To this eloquent harangue I replied with great gravity, “ you are perfectly right, sir,
“ for it would not be worth your while to
“ attempt making any alteration in him,
“ he is so well satisfied as he is, that I am
“ convinced it would be a very difficult
“ matter; nay, I may say absolutely im-
“ possible with your best instructions, ever
“ to make him so compleat a virtuoso as
“ yourself; or even to persuade him to ac-
“ cept a transfer of any part of your *pecu-
“ liar taste* for the fine arts!”

This passed with him for a compliment, therefore could not fail pleasing; nor could I be dissatisfied at it, as I had not deviated from the truth; for his taste was in reality a peculiar one, without the smallest degree of judgement; in pictures he thought himself a connoisseur, and was at an amazing expence to make frequent additions to his collection; the stair case, and every room

in the house, except those the servants slept in, were hung with pictures and prints from the floor to the ceiling, and as thickly set as they could well be, without any regard paid to the disposition of them, with respect to light or any thing else; as he suffered no one to remove the dust from them but himself, you may imagine he did not want employment; his library too shared his labours, but not the labour of his brain; his studies did not extend beyond a news-paper; but it was necessary he should have a library, because no gentleman was without; he therefore appropriated a large light closet to the purpose, and it was well stored with books, of what kind I know not, for the place was never to be deranged by the removal of any of them:—there was in it one piece of furniture, upon which Mr. Knowles piqued himself greatly; this was a kind of folding ladder, upon a peculiar construction, of his own, as he said, designed to go so high as to enable any one to reach the uppermost shelf with ease; but it unfortunately

unfortunately proved useless in that particular, as it required, when quite opened out, so much room that the closet would not contain it; therefore when all its singular conveniencies were to be exhibited, it was obliged to be drawn out into the adjacent room, a circumstance that caused no small trouble to the servants, as it occurred very often; scarce a day passing without some strangers requesting the honour of being admitted to see Mr. Knowles's collection of curiosities, by which he was highly flattered though there wanted but little discernment to perceive the most pointed satire under the greatest compliments, frequently paid to him upon those occasions; he, however, had not that discernment, and so long as he was pleased, it was of no consequence to Mrs. Knowles what it was with: she was a very easy tempered woman, whose whole time was taken up with trifles, of course I derived no pleasure from her conversation, and at the end of nine months my residence there became insupportable; to say the truth, I was entirely

tirely useless, for Miss Knowles was neither to read, write, or work long enough at a time ever to make any progress in either, least she should spoil her eyes, make her nose red, or mark her finger with the needle so as to be taken for a mantua maker's apprentice:—these were the mother's objections—the father's were, "that as to work she would have no occasion to do any, so it was best to *elucidate* it so far as not to trouble her with it; and if she could read a news paper, and write her own name, that was enough; for it was his *predicate* that female heads were not *dissected* upon any of the principles of *constructions*:"—against such weighty arguments, assisted by the weakness of Miss Knowles's intellectual faculties, I could make no opposition but, determined to remove where I hope I might be more useful. A little before I left them, Mrs. Macgregor casually found me out, and sent to beg the favour of seeing me; she had retired upon her little annuity to a pretty village within a mile and half of Peterborough; having heard nothing of her
for

for several years I went; but must defer an account of my visit as the paper obliges me to conclude.

I am, as ever,

yours,

ELEONORA.

L E T

LETTER XXXV.

MRS. Macgregor received me with that over-acted humility which is the companion of mean minds in an adverse state:—she saw me crossing a field opposite to her window, and ran out to help me over the stile, at the same time taking all the care imaginable of my gown to prevent its being torn or dirtied, for I happened to have on a beautiful sprigg'd muzzlin one, a present from my dear Carlton, declaring “it was so pretty it would be ten thousand pitties to *spile* it.”

“But lord Miss!” continued she, “I am
 “wastly concerned to see you looks so
 “poorly; I doubt this here air o North-
 “hamptonshire does not agree wi your
 “constitution?”—“I fancy so, Mrs.
 Mac-

“ Macgregor, returned I, but I am glad
“ to see it agrees so well with you; for you
“ look much better than when I saw you
“ last. I hope you are comfortable now,
“ and settled to your satisfaction?—
“ Why, pretty midling as for the matter
“ o that, you’ll see Miss when you goes
“ into my cot as I calls it, as how I’m
“ strangely metalmorfished. Ah! God
“ help me, I did’nt live in this here way
“ when your poor dear uncle was alive:
“ as the saying is, he thought nothin tall
“ too hot nor too heavy for me, but——”
“ You should not think of those things
“ now Mrs. Macgregor, said I, interrupt-
“ ing her, you should rather endeavour to
“ be contented, and thank God things are
“ not *worse* with you!—So I does, Miss,”
replied she—“ but for all that there, its
“ very hard for to be brought down so,
“ ater keeping sarvants to wait o me, and
“ now not to ha narrow one, nor nobody
“ for to do nothing tall for me.”

Our

Our arrival at her house put a stop to what she was saying. I then admired its situation and the cleanliness of its appearance, which gratified her highly, as she had a great opinion of her own good-housewifry: when we were seated in her parlour, I asked how she managed to make her annuity do to support her so decently, or if she did any thing to add to her income?—she replied —“ Oh! Lord! Miss! no, I doe’nt do
“ nothin, by reason as my eyes won’t let me
“ work fine needle works, but I makes
“ what I has do tolerably, caus I seldom
“ dines or sups at home; I visits bout
“ mongst my neighbours, and that there
“ does as well.” “ But I should think,” said I, “ that method would in the end
“ rather *add* to your expence than *lessen* it,
“ for you must sometimes invite them in
“ return, or else they will soon tire of in-
“ viting you.” —“ God blefs you, Miss,” exclaimed she with a laugh, “ I sees you
“ knows nothin tall how to live in the
“ world *yet*: now as your poor dear uncle
“ used to say o me, ay let *her* alone, she’ll
take

“ take keer to mind her own intrust: so
“ I does take keer: now, my way is this
“ here, as soon as I ha set my cot to rights
“ in a moraing, I dresses and goes out
“ a walking; then I calls to see two or
“ three neighbours, an if so be as how
“ arrow one axes me to dine, I purtends
“ as it is’nt convenient; so they presses, and
“ presses, tell I consents, if they’ll lem me
“ go home and do sommat else first: but if
“ nobody as I calls on does’nt ax me, then
“ I contrives to call o somebody else a
“ little afore dinner time; so I sets and
“ talks, and talks, as if I was in great
“ hurry to go too, till dinner comes in,
“ an then they over perfwades me so, as
“ I can’t get away if it was never so: if
“ I leaves em afore tea, as often does, then
“ I goes to another neighbour towards eve-
“ nin for a bit o’ chat, an tells em as
“ its unked to set alone by myself, so I has
“ a bit o supper wi em, and this you knows
“ Miss saves fire and candle, an all.”—
“ But this,” cried I, “ will not last always,
“ Mrs. Macgregor; you will certainly tire
them

“them all out.”—“No! No! No! Miss,” resumed she, “I ar’nt a bit a feared o that there: they thinks as how I,m rich, only loves to save my money, an the more I complains o being poor, the more they tells me as how I’m very rich; so I makes em all believe that when I dies I intends leaving what I has mongst em; being as how I has no kin as wants it; this makes em all mind their P’s and Q’s wi me; so you knows, Miss, I ha’nt much to thank em for, as they hopes to be well paid for’t in the end.”

Her account of her manner of living extorted a hearty laugh from me, tho’ I despised it from my heart; however, I made no remark upon it to her, only said—“This idea to be sure Mrs. Macgregor may lessen your weight of obligation, but”—continued I, with a view to turn the conversations—“have you every heard or seen any thing of your husband since I saw you last?”—“Oh Lord! Lord!” cried she, “I wonders Miss I didn’t tell you afore:

“ afore: yes! yes! I feed him, a dirty
“ Irish scoundrel; truly he wanted for to
“ make me as bad has himself: but as the
“ saying is, I knows a trick worth two o
“ that, thank God. Bout a month Miss,
“ afore I leaves Lonnon, he comes to me
“ as fond, and palarbering as any thing, an
“ purtends for to be sorry, an makes up a
“ long story, as how he was forced to go
“ away afore, but he wouldn’t never leave
“ me no more; so then I axes him ater my
“ money, an he has the imperance to tell
“ me as he was as poor as me, but if I would
“ but befrind him he’d make us both as
“ rich as ever, as how! Says I:—as this
“ here, says he:—an so he, goes on; my
“ dear, says he, there’s your niece as I
“ feed at Bredamsted--thats you, Miss,--my
“ friend, Lord Killarney, feed her last week
“ at the assembly at York races, an fell in
“ love wi her, but she wouldn’t take no no-
“ tice on him, an he couldn’t find her out
“ ater, but he remembered both her names,
“ caus he heard one Lady call her Ellenory,
“ and another call her Miss Sheldon: so my

“ dear as he and I are very good friends,
“ he mentions the thing to me; and says
“ I, God bless my soul, my Lord! its my
“ wife’s niece! and then he says, I’m very
“ glad o’ that, for I’m so in love wi her,
“ I don’t know what to do; but if you
“ or your wife’ll get her for me, I’ll make
“ you as rich as a *may-blob*.—God knows,
“ Miss, what a *may-blob* is, I never hears
“ of it afore; howsoever, that sinnifies no-
“ thin tall; I says to Maccracker, why
“ I hears Mr Dulmower’s family are all
“ gone to the *Hinges*, an I thought as how
“ Miss had been gone wi em, for I’ve seen
“ nothin tall on her a great while, but if
“ she arnt, I’ll find her out:—if I goes to
“ Muster Nelson’s, and tells him as a lord’s
“ in love wi her, to be sure he’ll tell me
“ were she is.—No, d—m it says Mac-
“ cracker, that won’t do tall, you must go
“ some other way to work.—So then Miss,
“ as the saying is, I begins to smell a rat,
“ an I says to him, says I, she’ll make as
“ good a Lady as arrow one on em all,
“ an I demagin my Lord wants nothin but
to

“to marry her?—psha! d—m it, says he
 “you find her out, an never trouble your
 “head bout marriage; what’s that to us,
 “as long as we gets money by’t: so
 “I flies in a passion an says, get a long
 “directly, you Irish rascal, or I’ll ram this
 “here poker down your throat; you shan’t
 “think for to make me be confarned in
 “any such vild purceedins; an so Miss as
 “he didn’t stir, I goes to gi him a knock
 “wi the poker, but misses him, an down
 “comes I flat upon the ground an hurts
 “myself sadly, so off he goes, calling me
 “all but good, an I sees no more on
 “him from that time to this here; but
 “I warned he’s ater no good, so Miss as
 “you’re a going to Lonnon, lem me ad-
 “vise you to take keer on him, as he doesn’t
 “play you no trick.”

“I thank you for your caution, Mrs. Mac-
 “gregor,” returned I, “but as so many
 “years have elapsed since then, I think it
 “an unnecessary one, for without doubt
 “time has removed from my person every
 temptation

“temptation of that kind—“ Youre mistaken, Miss, cried she; youre handsome enough yet; ay, an too handsome a deal for such fellers as them there !”

I smiled without feeling flattered by the compliment: I own I was best pleased with the resentment she had shewn to her husband upon my account, and could not resist a propensity to give her a guinea; as a reward for which she returned me *too* many thanks. After tea I came away,—she would see me safe over the fields; and at parting bestowed many blessings upon me.

The following day I quitted Mrs. Knowles, without any degree of reluctance; and reaching London in safety, went directly to Mr. Nelson's, where I had the happiness of meeting my dear Harriet, Mr. Wellingsford, and my little namesake, who all rejoiced to see me again. My friend Lady Charlotte Stanley had informed me by letter that she was obliged to leave town the week before, and could not return in less than a month; this was a heavy disappointment

appointment to me, as I wished much to see her; but patience was my only remedy; and I think your Ladyship will need a large portion to read such long letters as I write, therefore not to trespass farther, I hasten to subscribe myself,

Your affectionate friend,

ELEONORA.

LET-
H 3
The following is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting of the Society for the Relief of the Poor, held on the 1st of January, 1791. The names are arranged in alphabetical order.

LETTER XXXVI.

WHEN I had retired for the night;
 I began again to think about a fu-
 ture settlement; for, upon mature delibe-
 ration, I found all my former reluctance to
 residing, either with my sister or Lady
 Charlotte revive with additional strength,
 notwithstanding the warmest affection glow-
 ed in my breast towards them both: per-
 haps had I loved them less, my objections
 would not have been so strong; but I
 dreaded every idea that carried with it
 even a bare possibility of diminishing the
 friendly attachment that subsisted between
 us.—I was sensible that my own temper
 was soured by disappointment, and my
 fancy had of late given too dark a colour-
 ing to every object that presented itself to
 her view.—I knew they were partial to
 me,

me, yet I could not expect their partiality to be so extensive as to overlook those disagreeables in me, which I could neither overlook or pardon in myself.—I considered, too, that I had seen many friendships, founded apparently upon as firm a basis as ours, quickly destroyed by such a close intercourse between the parties, when a more distant one would not only have strengthened, but, in all probability, have secured its continuance through life.—These reflections determined me to adhere steadfastly to my plan, and endeavour to fix myself as speedily as possible, and in this I was successful far beyond my expectation; for the next morning, when Mr. Nelson had done with the news-paper, I took it up, and throwing my eye carelessly over the advertisements, saw one that struck me; it was worded in a manner unusually elegant, and, as personal attendance was not required, I determined to answer it without consulting any one. I therefore wrote immediately, and, after dispatching my letter, accompanied by

Mr. Nelson and his family, went to spend the day with Mr. Wellingsford and Harriet. The hopes I indulged of success in my application gave me a much greater degree of cheerfulness than I had experienced for many months, and the day passed most agreeably. At my return to Mr. Nelson's, the servant delivered me a card sealed up in a cover; the contents were these:

"Mr. Dawson's compliments to Miss Sheldon, will have the honour of waiting upon her at seven o'clock to-morrow evening, from Sir Charles Wetherby; in consequence of her letter of reply to his advertisement."

Hanover Square.

Mr. Dawson was punctual to the time of his appointment; and, as I had previously told Mrs. Nelson I expected a gentleman to speak with me upon some business, she politely gave me an opportunity of seeing him alone.

On

On his entrance, he introduced himself by saying, "My name, Madam, is Dawson; I am steward to the estates of Sir Charles Wetherby, who has commissioned me to wait upon you, first to inform you of the particulars more fully than the nature of an advertisement admits—I have the pleasure to tell you too, Madam, that Sir Charles admired your letter greatly; out of thirty, he said, it was the only one he could select, wherein the writer discovered qualifications, such as met his wishes."—I bowed my acknowledgements, and he proceeded.—"There is one circumstance, Madam, in which you have mistaken the meaning of the advertisement; you seem to apprehend Sir Charles wants a Lady for the purpose of *educating* his daughter; that is not the case, for Miss Wetherby is turned of eighteen, her mind and manners extremely well cultivated, and she is at this time a very fine accomplished young woman; he, therefore, wishes for a Lady whose ac-

“compliments are such as qualify her for
“the company of persons of distinction;
“and in the hours of retirement capable of
“forming an agreeable companion for Miss
“Wetherby.” “Then I imagine, Sir,”
said I, “that Sir Charles has lately been
“so unfortunate as to lose his Lady?”
“Your question, Madam,” said Mr. Daw-
son, interrupting me, “leads directly to
“that subject which I think was the prin-
“cipal reason Sir Charles had for desiring
“me to wait upon you first; for, as he
“intends to pay his respects to you him-
“self to-morrow morning, my visit seems
“otherwise unnecessary; but what I allude
“to, is a thing too tender for him to touch
“upon to a stranger, it is the only source
“of trouble he has in the world, nor
“need he have a greater.—His Lady,
“Madam, is still living and with him,
“but unhappily has contracted a habit of
“drinking to excess, and in that one vice
“she buries every duty and every joy of
“life, sacrificing to intemperance all
“the dear delights of social intercourse,
“mate-

“maternal tenderness, and conjugal af-
“fection; this has injured her health,
“and not only deprived her of her beauty,
“but has rendered her an object unfit to
“behold; and, with no other companion
“than her bottle, she confines herself con-
“stantly to her own apartment: yet is
“Sir Charles still tenderly attached to her
“Ladyship,—he cannot forget what she
“once was;—and to spare himself the
“pain of making you acquainted with
“this circumstance, which it is proper
“you should know, previous to your fix-
“ing in his house; he, I suppose, with
“that view, deputed me to wait upon
“you,—though he did not say so.—The
“reason he assigned for it was, that I might
“enquire your terms; adding directly,
“that no terms you thought proper to
“propose, should break off the treaty.”

“The account you have given me,
“Sir,”—returned I—“fills me with con-
“cern both for Sir Charles and Miss We-
“therby;

“therby; but I think myself peculiarly
“fortunate in having seen the advertise-
“ment.—I shall take the liberty of re-
“questing my friend Mr. Nelson, as I
“have not the honour of knowing Sir
“Charles Wetherby, to make some neces-
“sary enquiries about the family. Sir
“Charles cannot be displeased with my
“caution, since I have no doubt of the
“event proving perfectly satisfactory to
“me, and advantageous to his character.
“I have already, Sir, given him refer-
“ences to those who will answer any
“questions, he may think proper to ask,
“respecting me: in the mean time, you
“will do me the favour to inform Sir
“Charles I have no terms to make, my
“little fortune being sufficient to render
“a salary needless to me; and, as I posi-
“tively will not accept of any, I flatter
“myself with a hope that he will not make
“an offer of it.”

Mr. Dawson then gave me references
to several respectable families with whom

Sir

Sir Charles was intimate, and to whom his character and conduct were well known; after which he departed, and I instantly joined Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, whom I informed of the whole transaction; the former, with his usual goodness, went about the business immediately, and at his return accosted me thus: "Eleonora, my dear, I congratulate you; you are certainly one of the most fortunate beings in the universe: Sir Charles Wetherby bears a most uncommon character; he is all that is truly estimable in man, and I heartily grieve that he has such a wife. She was once, they say, a charming woman, and continued so till some fool of a physician recommended to her, after an illness, to drink Brandy and water as the most wholesome beverage; by degrees she came to like it too well, and now drinks an astonishing quantity. I think, Eleonora," continued Mr. Nelson, "that if the doctors who give such ridiculous advice are not all downright fools, they are what is much worse, and de-

"deserve hanging more than the highway-
 "man who takes your purse.—How often
 "have I seen amiable women, from the
 "practice of this vice, degenerate into the
 "lowest and most contemptible creatures
 "under Heaven: their once delighted and
 "happy husbands made truly wretched,—
 "their children neglected,—the peace of
 "their whole family destroyed, and their
 "property wasted: till at length they are
 "reduced from a state of affluence and
 "respectability, to that of *poverty* and
 "*nakedness*; and all this in consequence
 "of the advice of such villanous doctors.
 "Every husband would do well to kick
 "such *would-be* Esculapians out of the
 "house, the first moment he recommends
 "such a pernicious beverage.—But I beg
 "your pardon, my dear Eleonora, for
 "digressing from the subject most mate-
 "rial to you; I think you will be very
 "happy in Sir Charles's family;—that is
 "if any thing but Major Carlton's pre-
 "sence can make you so, which I much
 "doubt; therefore I will only say, you
 "will

"will be happier there without *him*, than
 "you would be any where else.—Miss
 "Wetherby is, I hear, a lovely girl, of
 "an engaging gentle disposition, and has
 "a benevolent heart; and, I think, you
 "seem formed for the associates of each
 "other."

I thanked him for the trouble he had
 taken, and Mrs. Nelson and he united in
 expressing their joy at the prospect of my
 settling again so near them, nor was I less
 delighted at it. In the morning Sir Charles
 came, and his appearance prejudiced us in
 his favour the moment we beheld him.—
 He was about fifty-five, tall, and elegantly
 formed; his countenance wore strong re-
 mains of manly beauty, overshadowed by
 a cloud denoting some degree of unhap-
 piness within; he had lost his left arm in
 the service of his country.—These are the
 outlines of his person, his manners were
 not inferior. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were
 as well pleased with him as I was.—Our
 agreement was made in few words, and he
 engaged

engaged us all to dine at his house the next day; we accordingly went, and were most agreeably entertained, Miss Wetherby appearing to be every thing I could wish.— Before we parted, it was fixed for me to take up my abode with her on that day week.—In the intervenient space I received and answered letters from my beloved Major; but that did not tend to elevate my spirits,—he said no more of returning; and I had fondly flattered myself he would fix the time. This disappointment encreased my dejection, and, at times, the anguish of my mind became almost intolerable.—I wished to resign myself to the will of Heaven, but my best resolves for that purpose were altogether vain.— I wept over his dear resemblance, while my heart involuntarily reproached the loved original for his insensibility to the pangs I endured, till reflection obliged these sensations to yield to the infinitely more bitter ones of self-reproach for ingratitude to that God, who had done such great things for me,— and then I wept again over the depravity
of

of my own heart. Thus, my dear Madam, did I pass a part of many days,—the recollection of which, even now, throws a gloom over my mind : that the infection may not extend to yours, I will conclude; and am, with all sincerity,

Your friend,

ELEONORA.

LET-

LETTER XXXVII.

ON the day appointed Miss Wetherby came herself in the carriage to Mr. Nelson's to fetch me; and the following day I accompanied her to a village, a few miles beyond Cobham, in Surry, where Sir Charles had purchased an elegant little Villa, as a pleasant retreat for himself and daughter; his seat being at so great a distance from London, that he had intirely given up going thither, from the time his Lady first chose to confine herself to her apartment:—we remained a week at the Villa, when I had the opportunity of observing that Miss Wetherby's conduct had made her the object of general esteem: she was of a domestic disposition, and had a taste for the elegant pleasures of a country life; this caused us to spend much time in that

that charming retirement, where Sir Charles visited us two or three times a week, but would never sleep there, always alleging to his daughter, when she has expressed a wish for his doing it, "that Lady Wetherby's *foible*," as he tenderly called it, "would not justify him, in his own opinion, for the slightest deviation from respect, or attention towards her." I honoured him for his sentiments while I pitied his Lady, who could descend, so low as to prefer what rendered her insensible to the possession of such superior merit, as that of Sir Charles Wetherby. Miss Wetherby and I seldom went into public, therefore the first six months of my residence with her glided away in a manner highly satisfactory to me: but alas! this state of calm tranquillity was again invaded by a lover. The worthy Lord Granville, who had been absent from England about two years, returned the beginning of the winter, and being very intimate with Sir Charles, visited there frequently—this Nobleman was a widower, about

about thirty-eight, with person, manners and mind, almost too captivating to be resisted, where the heart was not guarded, as mine was, by a prior attachment:—he omitted nothing in his power to make himself pleasing to me, for the space of four months; at the end of which he declared himself openly. Sir Charles and Miss Wetherby interested themselves warmly in his favour, and engaged Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, with my sister and Mr. Wellingford, as their allies; so that I was beset from all quarters, and inexpressibly wearied by their solicitations:—yet my heart refused to yield.—Harriet tried to persuade Lady Charlotte Stanley to use her influence, but this affectionate friend replied, “that she valued both my friendship and my happiness too highly to run the risque of losing either, by saying one word upon the subject:”—yet this availed me little, for his Lordship, with such powerful advocates on his side, would not be easily repulsed, and their persuasions, added to the inquietude of

of my mind with respect to my still dear Carlton, imperceptibly undermined both my health and spirits to a great degree; and aided by one event, which I shall mention in its place, threw me, at length, upon a bed of sickness, from which I never expected to arise.—

As your Ladyship has expressed yourself much pleased with the character of Lady Charlotte, and admired the former specimen I gave you of her poetic talent, I shall conclude this with part of a letter she sent to me while I was at Sir Charles Wetherby's: she was then in the country: it was written in the month of September.

“MY DEAR ELEONORA,

The hoarse black tempest scouls along the sky,
The echoing forest groans a sad reply;
And scattered foliage speaks the ruthless Winter
night.

This is an odd beginning to my letter.—
I know not how it may strike you in London

don, who have not so much leisure to contemplate the season of the year as we in the country, but I assure you the above lines are in every peasant's mouth: not indeed in the exact order they are there placed, but to the same effect;—for the voice of complaint you know is always poetic, and I can even suppose the London beaus, pity moving animals, while they skip tip-toed from one stone to another, and pendant water-spouts are bestowing the favours of their rich contents, bemoaning themselves thus;

How horrid the weather! how filthy the streets!
How immensely affrontive each rascal one meets!
Vile porters with loads too, such scoundrels as they,
“Have a care there” is all the gruff savages say.
Then your shoulder is grazed, or Hat jerk'd on
the ground,
While the *canaille* survey it with brayings profound.
This coat too—my taylor's not paid for it yet—
Is quite ruin'd and spoil'd; every thread of it wet;
The colour's so chang'd, the knap rises so rough,
I shall look like a Laplander stuck in a muff,

Mis.

Miss Bab—Dear Miss Bab!—would expire at the
fight,

And cry “Billy, I vow you’re an infinite fright!”
That shovel of mud, and this cloud of black smoke,
Let me sink if I han’t got a finishing stroke.

My stockings too, ah! diabolical fight!

Are but wretched remains of what once were so
white;

This leg, in a covering so spotted and crost,

Has all grace—all proportion entirely lost.

But my grief for my coat, oh ye Gods! I can’t
smother,

For stay-tape, I fear, will not trust me another;

The dog’s grown so crusty, so plaguely grim,

I might hide my fine form in a blanket, for him.

My curls—ah! this pocket glass shows how they
set;

The hair all dishevell’d, the powder all wet:

I must haste to pomade, he shall dress it anew,

For I cannot support the barbarous view.

With him I may safely encrease the old score,

The fellow has spirit, and is grateful, though poor.

For the skill that his hand round these features dis-
plays,

The loan of my cloaths on a sunday o’erpays,

While I mark out the day with indolent leisure;

For then vulgar alike is devotion and pleasure.

Thus when glittering beau Phœbus retires from
our fight,

He lends Madam Luna his *cast-suit* of light.

I leave

I leave your Ladyship to the contemplation of the foregoing, and shall only add that

I am,

Most faithfully yours

ELEONORA.

L. E. T.

LETTER XXXVIII.

ALITTLE before the breaking up of the parliament for the summer season, there was a grand masquerade at the Pantheon, to which Sir Charles was engaged with an agreeable party, who united with him to persuade Miss Wetherby and me to accompany them: we were neither of us fond of the amusement, but yielded to their solicitations; and as I was too languid to bestow much thought on character or dress, I determined upon that of a quaker, as being the least troublesome to me. I will not attempt to give you any description of the scene, *that*, as well as the few witticisms which were uttered in my hearing, being all driven from my remembrance, by the subsequent event. I remember being teased by two masks in do-

minos, who followed me about a long time; they both seemed to eye Sir Charles frequently with great attention, but did not speak to him; and afterwards when I had escaped from them, I observed them attending closely to another female mask, habited exactly like myself, and her figure so much like mine, that I imagined they had only mistaken *her* for *me*; tho' I was well pleased to be no more troubled with them, and took care to keep with my party the rest of the evening, till at length I saw them both go out together; and as the company were beginning to break up, I concluded they were quite gone, and slackened in my care; by which means, in passing through the rooms, I soon after got separated from my party, and in seeking for them, I met my quaker resemblance going into a room I was just quitting; in a minute after a mask dressed like Sir Charles came up to me, and taking my hand, said in a feigned voice,—“ We thought you “ was lost; one of our party is taken ill, “ and we are going home directly.”—

I was

I was immediately alarmed, from the apprehension that it was Miss Wetherby, and hurrying along with Sir Charles, as I thought, asked where he had left Miss Wetherby?—to which I was answered, “waiting in the carriage at the door:”—entertaining no suspicion, I readily suffered myself to be conducted by him, and we walked on out of the croud to get to the carriage, into which I jumped; he followed, and we drove off furiously:—as I had not noticed the outside of the charriot, and as care had been taken to draw up the blinds, it was impossible for me to see the difference when I got in, or to observe who was in it:—but I presently found I was not in company with Sir Charles Wetherby, or his daughter. Seized with extreme horror, I hastily exclaimed, “Gracious heaven protect me!—where am I?—who am I with?—for pity’s sake take me back to my friends!”—having taken off my mask, and speaking in my natural tone of voice, they instantly perceived their error; and one of them cried out, “E—ds! my

"Lord, we are in a pretty scrape now!—
"why you have laid hold of the wrong
"person." "D—m it!" replied the other,
"the mistake is all your own, by Jupi-
"ter!—did not you tell me you was sure
"it was *her* in the quaker's dress?" then
addressing me in a voice of rage and disap-
pointment, said,—“who the devil are
"you?—tell me at once, before I blow
"your brains out, to compensate for my
"disappointment.”—“Oh! my Lord!”
cried I, “since you are mistaken in the per-
"son for whom you intended this favour,
"do call to the driver to stop, and let me
"down without farther enquiries, as it is
"by no means worth your while to go any
"farther with me, for I am neither *young*
"nor *handsome*.”—“The devil you ar’nt!”
returned he,—“you are curstly *fly*
"though—but you shall find that will not
"do with me—I will take a survey of your
"physiomy and if I do not see in it
"beauty enough to console me for this
"great and *rid* blunder, I shall *kick* you out,
"and you may *tramp* where you will—

“so friend Patrick put down one of the
“blinds.”

The fellow did as he was ordered, when, as it was the beginning of May, and past five o'clock in the morning, of course day light, I found myself (to my extreme vexation) in the power of Lord Killarney and the wile Macgregor:—unfortunately they both recognized me directly, and exulted greatly in their success, declaring it was even beyond their hopes, and that the exchange was perfectly satisfactory:—all my entreaties to be released availed nothing, they drew up the blind again and were proceeding out of town at a great rate, I knew not whither:—my fright coinciding with the weakness of my health and spirits, deprived me of all power to cry out for assistance, and had not providence interposed wonderfully for my deliverance, I must have gone to the end of their journey with them:—we were at the distance of seven miles from London, when the carriage suddenly stopped, and his Lordship putting

I 3

down one of the blinds to know the cause of it, I discovered, in a moment, that we were upon the Surry Road:—this rejoiced me beyond measure; and inspired with fresh courage, I leaned forwards, held down the blind with both my hands, and before either of them could prevent me, put out my head and called loudly to the turnpike keeper for assistance:—providentially for me, our detention was caused by a large flock of sheep, and a drove of oxen coming through the turnpike in their way to the London Market, and it was impossible for us to proceed till they were gone:—as I called the man by his name he came, and recollected me instantly. Give me leave to observe here, how striking a proof I had of the truth of that text of scripture, where it says,—“cast thy bread upon the water, and thou shalt find it after many days;”—for I had once been happy enough to render this same poor man at the turnpike, a very signal piece of service, as he deemed it; for which both he and his wife thought they never could be grateful enough

enough, and, in such an exigency, I verily believe he would with pleasure have sacrificed his life to preserve me, and testify his gratitude:—few words were necessary to shew him my dangerous situation, which determined him to rescue me:—his wife, who had heard me call, and knew my voice, came out with him, and engaged the drovers to assist her husband in the enterprise:—the two servants were soon knocked off their horses and disarmed; and their vile master, with his companion, dragged from the carriage, and forced to undergo a pretty severe discipline, while the good woman, as she was helping me out, with more than martial ardor, encouraged them to “proceed and beat the villains to mummy:”—the wretches found their fire-arms useless, though they had attempted to use them; but my champions soon got possession of them, and threw them into the fields.—I saw very little of the affray, having been taken into the house, where I fainted two or three times; at length being recovered, I expressed my fervent

thanks to my deliverers, and distributed the contents of my purse amongst them; the honest fellows told me they had given the scoundrels such a drubbing, as they would not easily forget; they laughed heartily at the sneaking figures the poor devils cut, and then, assuring me I had no occasion to fear them again, they pursued their way with their cattle, and left me with my honest friends in the turnpike house; where finding I was greatly indisposed, the poor woman would insist upon my laying on her bed, while her husband went to Sir Charles Wetherby's.—Having now assured your Ladyship of my deliverance, I will take my repose, and leave you to the enjoyment of yours.

I am,

with true affection, yours,

ELEONORA.

LETTER, XXXIX.

IN a very short time Sir Charles and Miss Wetherby came to me; the moment the latter approached the bed where I laid, she threw her arms round my neck, and in a transport of joy, too big for utterance, burst into tears, in which I accompanied her, and some minutes elapsed before either of us could speak; while Sir Charles stood a silent, yet not an unfeeling spectator;—he very generously rewarded both the man and his wife for the part they had acted, who, to do them justice, were not easily brought to accept any thing, both saying, that they had but done their duty:—we then left them with lively impressions of the goodness of their hearts. In our way home, Sir Charles told me that he and his family had been in the

utmost consternation and distress at having lost me so unaccountably, but he was highly pleased they had found me again;— then added, jestingly,

“Really, Miss Sheldon, this is the very first time in my life that ever I heard of a lady being run away with after she was turned of thirty.—had I suspected such a thing I should have been a more watchful guardian—however, I must repair my error by taking more care in the future, as I know not now at what age a lady may be deemed secure from such attempts!”

“But my dear Sir,”—cried I, “you forget that the wretches took me by mistake or else”—

“Oh!”—said he, interrupting me, “for the honour of beauty always suppresses that part of the story, it will pass muster without it to any one who looks at you.—I fancy it will not be an easy matter to convince Lord Granville there was any mis-

"mistake in the case; he has been with
 "ever since we missed you, and been
 "seeking for you with the utmost anxiety.
 "A little before your messenger came, his
 "Lordship had been again at my house, to
 "learn if we had been able to gain any in-
 "telligence; finding we had not, he set
 "out again to inquire in the neighbour-
 "hood of the Pantheon. I did not see
 "him, being engaged myself in the same
 "fruitless search, from whence I returned
 "at the very moment when Caroline was
 "stepping into the carriage to come to
 "you; but we left word, if Lord Gran-
 "ville came, to tell him you were safe, and
 "we should bring you with us."

When we stopped at the door, we found
 his Lordship there, and all the servants ga-
 thered together in the hall to receive us;
 the latter were all eager to congratulate
 me, nor could some of them forbear taking
 my hands and kissing them, for which
 mark of kindness tears were my only expres-
 sion.

utmost consternation and distress at having lost me so unaccountably, but he was highly pleased they had found me again;—then added, jestingly,

“Really, Miss Sheldon, this is the very first time in my life that ever I heard of a lady being run away with after she was turned of thirty;—had I suspected such a thing I should have been a more watchful guardian—however, I must repair my error by taking more care in the future, as I know not now at what age a lady may be deemed secure from such attempts!”

“But my dear Sir,”—cried I, “you forget that the wretches took me by mistake or else”—

“Oh!”—said he, interrupting me, “for the honour of beauty always suppresses that part of the story, it will pass muster without it to any one who looks at you;—I fancy it will not be an easy matter to convince Lord Granville there was any mis-

"mistake in the case; he has been watching
 "and ever since we missed you, and been
 "seeking for you with the utmost anxiety.
 "A little before your messenger came, his
 "Lordship had been again at my house, to
 "learn if we had been able to gain any in-
 "telligence; finding we had not, he set
 "out again to inquire in the neighbour-
 "hood of the Pantheon. I did not see
 "him, being engaged myself in the same
 "fruitless search, from whence I returned
 "at the very moment when Caroline was
 "stepping into the carriage to come to
 "you;—but we left word, if Lord Gran-
 "ville came, to tell him you were safe, and
 "we should bring you with us."

When we stopped at the door, we found
 his Lordship there, and all the servants ga-
 thered together in the hall to receive us;
 the latter were all eager to congratulate
 me, nor could some of them forbear taking
 my hands and kissing them; for which
 mark of kindness tears were my only expres-
 sion.

sion of thanks, for I was really much affected;—when we reached the breakfast parlour, all about me showed their regard by their assiduous attention.—Lord Granville looked at me with the deepest concern, but forbore asking any questions: after taking some refreshment, they advised me to go to bed, which I did, Miss Wetherby attended me to my chamber, and sat down by my side to watch me, where she staid for several hours, though I strongly opposed it. As she was in great need of rest herself, after I had slept, I found myself better, and she was then prevailed upon to leave me to the care of her woman, who was so good a nurse and so attentive to me, that I thought myself greatly recovered in the morning, therefore got up and met the family to breakfast. Lord Granville, tenderly anxious for me, soon joined us, and was much surprized at finding I had left my chamber:—he gave us his company the greatest part of the day, but fearful of agitating me, avoided saying

saying any thing upon that subject near
est his heart, therefore his conversation was
extremely pleasing to me.

The following morning, Miss Wether-
by, thinking a ride would be of service
to me, proposed a visit to Mrs. Nelson,
in whose company she took great de-
light, I acquiesced with pleasure and we
set out;—but not being so well as I had
imagined myself to be, the riding so far
over the stones took so violent an effect
upon me, that as soon as I entered the
house I fainted; before they could get
me up stairs; when they did, I found myself
so extremely ill that I was unable to sit
up; and a fever coming on rapidly, it was
judged necessary to send for a Physician,
who seemed to think me in a very dange-
rous way, and poor Miss Wetherby depar-
ted greatly depressed as it was near a fort-
night before I was pronounced out of
danger, and the whole of that time I was
delirious and knew no one about me.

Mrs
Nelson

Nelson nursed me with maternal tenderness, nor was I neglected by my sister or the rest of my friends: Lady Charlotte Stanley was with us the greatest part of every day; and I was afterwards informed that Lord Granville was inexpressibly anxious about me. When I was able to sit up, Mrs. Nelson began again to speak to me in his behalf, in which she was joined by Miss Wetherby and Harriet; but my reluctance was insurmountable: thus distressed beyond measure by their perpetual sollicitations, my spirits sunk daily; and I knew not to what degree of melancholy I might have arrived, had not Lady Charlotte, who dreaded the consequence, kindly interposed, and prevailed upon them to drop the subject till they saw me restored to perfect health; they followed her advice:—a few days afterwards a packet came from the major—her Ladyship happened to be in the drawing room with Mr. Nelson when it was delivered, and both concluding it would prove the best

best restorative, she brought it up to me; but Oh! what were my feelings upon the perusal—I will copy it here that your Ladyship may judge—

“My Dearest Eleonora,

“After an absence of near *fourteen years*, I am now preparing to return to my native country—to all that my soul holds dear upon earth:—the desire of taking the whole of my property with me has detained me here thus long, and I find would still detain me years longer, ere I could accomplish that point; I am therefore returning with only a small fortune; but with that I am content, since it is sufficient to supply all the *comforts* of life—I want not its superfluous luxuries, or any of the gaudy pageantry of pomp:—domestic enjoyments are easily obtained; a moderate competency will supply them all:—but let me not flatter myself with an expectation of reaching this summit

of

“ of human felicity: it is presuming upon
“ a length of days I have no reason to
“ expect: for my health is greatly im-
“ paired, and I fear I shall hardly live
“ to reach England: I therefore enclose
“ my will—it gives you, my dearest
“ angel, a right to all my possessions
“ at my decease, amounting as nearly
“ as I can estimate their worth, to some-
“ thing more than twenty thousand pounds.
“ My friend Colonel Percival who returns
“ with me, will, if I do not survive, wait
“ upon you with an account of my effects,
“ and will render you every assistance
“ you may stand in need of: he is per-
“ fectly acquainted with all my affairs,
“ and I may add too with every thought
“ of my heart.—

“ Eleonora, in the course of my
“ life I have formed only two friend-
“ ships, one with the Colonel, and the
“ other with your lovely self:—and here let
“ me say, that which I feel for you has
“ ever

“ ever been mingled with far more tender sentiments. Oh! my Love! I cannot leave the world without giving vent to the fond effusions of my heart, in telling you, how long, and how tenderly, I have lov’d you: Yes! my Eleonora, the first hour I spent in your company fixed me yours for ever: then it was, that my heart finding its own mansion too mean, deserted instantly to yours, nor has it ever strayed:— with what difficulty did I refrain from avowing to you my sentiments, in those happy hours, when, at Mrs. Wallingham’s, I enjoyed, without interruption, your charming converse, but knowing your situation, and too sensibly feeling my own, I determined to adhere to the rigid dictates of honour, which compelled me to prove the purity of my passion, by leaving you free from an intanglement that might have prevented your accepting an advantageous establishment: the same motive has governed

my

"my conduct ever since:—need I say,
 "more to convince you that your ease
 "and happiness is dear to me, and the
 "principal object of my consideration:—
 "yet I must acknowledge, my Eleonora,
 "that I felt great satisfaction in hear-
 "ing from Mr. Delmore of the offers you
 "had refused, nor could I then help
 "flattering myself with a hope that you
 "would be reserved to bless your admir-
 "ing Carlton:—the blissful certainty of
 "being beloved by you, would cheer
 "me in the darkest hour;—but this sweet
 "solace is denied me, now I most need it.
 "I am really very ill, much indisposed,
 "both in body and mind; your late let-
 "ters have infected me;—they are tinged
 "with a deep melancholy, which has
 "made its way into my heart:—Eleonora,
 "they have unmanned me; I have al-
 "most obliterated your writing with my
 "tears:—Oh! that I might be permitted
 "henceforth to enjoy the inexpressible
 "happiness of chasing every sorrow from
 your

"your gentle bosom!—but it will not
 "be;—my agitation will not suffer me to
 "proceed, farewell,—my love, my life's
 "best hopes—my amiable Eleonora, fare-
 "well—if we meet no more upon earth,
 "forget not your faithful and

"affectionate
 "FRANCIS CARLTON."

In the weak state in which I was at the
 time this letter reached me, you will
 not wonder it overpowered me so far,
 as to cause a relapse of my disorder,
 and for another ten days my life was de-
 spaired of; at the end of that time the
 delirium left me, and other favourable
 symptoms appeared, but my spirits were
 still heavily depressed;—the kind friends
 who attended my sick bed, took infinite
 pains to remove the weight;—suggested to
 me that the Major's disorder seemed to be
 more upon his spirits than his health, and
 they

they would undoubtedly be revived by the friendly attentions of the Colonel, the salubrity of the sea air, and above all the prospect of returning to his native country, and the object of his fondest affections; these suggestions had the desired effect—hope again entered my heart, and tended to promote my recovery; I was soon able to leave my bed and sit up a few hours daily;—to give me ease too, Mrs. Nelson undertook to acquaint Lord Granville of those circumstances that must for ever destroy his expectations, which (though I had never encouraged) gave me uneasiness—this in a great degree restored my tranquillity, and I continued to indulge my hopes—adieu for the present.

Yours inviolably,

ELEONORA.

L E T.

the world undoubtedly be received by the
friendly attentions of the Colonel, the
splendour of the tea and above all
the perfect manner in which the

country and the objects of the tour
affections; these feelings had the desired
effect—hope again entered my heart, and

THREE weeks had elapsed from
the time of my receiving my beloved
Carlton's letter, when he, with Colonel
Rercival, arrived at Mr. Nelson's, who,
together with Lady Charlotte and my
sister, was at tea in the drawing room;
when they were announced, Harriet—
whose affection for me had taught her to
love Carlton as a brother—no sooner heard
his name, than—forgetting it was their
first meeting—she flew to him, caught one
of his hands, clasped it in both hers, and
kissing it, burst into tears. This reception
from a total stranger at first, astonished and
disconcerted him, as it did the spectators;
but Lady Charlotte quickly removed all

em-

T. E.

embarrassment, by saying "be not sur-
 " prized, Major, at this tender reception
 " from the sister of your Eleonora; rather
 " regard it as a happy presage—as a spark
 " of that fraternal affection which has
 " been kindled in her bosom by the lively
 " manner in which your character has
 " been delineated to her."

The Major immediately enclosed Har-
 riet in his arms, and tenderly embraced
 her; who, as soon as she could speak,
 said—with a blush—"I should indeed be
 " ashamed to shew my face now, did I not
 " find relief in the friendly apology you
 " have made for me, Lady Charlotte."

"What!" cried Carlton, eagerly, "I am
 " I so happy as to meet with Lady Char-
 " lotte Stanley, too! to whom I feel my-
 " self under such infinite obligations, for
 " all her acts of kindness towards my
 " much-loved Eleonora! And you, Mr.
 " Nelson, and your Lady, how shall I ever
 " be

"be able to make proper acknowledgements for all your goodness to—"

"By never mentioning it," interrupted this generous friend, "your presence"

"amply rewards me; therefore, my dear"

"Major, as I perceive we are no strangers"

"to each other, give me your hand, and"

"suffer me to assure you that you are the"

"most welcome guest I ever received; to"

"prove which, I must instantly order"

"some refreshment for the Colonel, and"

"you, in the mean time, my dear Har-

"riet, do you shew your obedience to"

"your husband, by sending for him di-

"rectly;—he will readily relinquish the"

"pleasures of the counting-house, for the"

"still higher one of welcoming the Ma-

"jor, and his friends."

At length, being all seated and tolerably composed, w Carlton enquired after, and requested Mr. Nelson to inform him where I was, declaring, at the same time, his im-

patience to see me: not having an immediate reply, he became alarmed, and with visible agitation exclaimed, "Heavens! what is the matter? Surely my Eleonora is alive! Oh! keep me no longer in suspense, but tell me, my friends, where she is, that I may fly to her.—"

"Pray be composed, Major," cried Lady Charlotte. "She is indeed alive, and in this house; but it will require some consideration, before we can determine upon the propriety of admitting you to see her to night, we must first prepare her."

"Oh! Madam," returned he, "you fill me with terrors; I see now the reason of this caution, and of Mrs. Wellingsford's tears,—my Eleonora is *ill, dangerously ill!*"

"Major," said her Ladyship, with a smile, "if you do not compose yourself,

"and

“and submit to be governed by the dictates of common sense, I will have nothing at all to do with you; you are absolutely the most provoking creature in the world, with your terrors and your alarms, when there is not the least occasion for any one of them.—I have the happiness to assure you that our sweet friend is in as fair a way to do well, as we can possibly wish; but should you, by too sudden an appearance, agitate her gentle spirits, I will not answer for the consequence.—She has been in extreme danger, till within these few days past; but your presence, when she is able to support it, will, I really believe, do much towards perfecting her recovery.”

“My dear friend!” cried Colonel Percival, “her Ladyship has given you a motive sufficiently powerful to compel your patient acquiescence.—Let me add another.—I much fear your own
VOL. II. K spirits

“are not equal to the shock you would
 “feel, on seeing, after so long an absence,
 “the object of your tenderest affections,
 “in so afflictive a situation.

“Oh ! Percival,” replied the Major—
 “for my Eleonora’s advantage, I will sub-
 “mit to whatever you wish ; but this
 “disappointment, this suspense is dread-
 “ful !—yet I will bear it ; I will bear any
 “thing, rather than run the risk of losing
 “her by my own imprudence !”

Lady Charlotte, observing him to be
 deeply affected, and fearing he might be
 a sufferer from her over cautious conduct,
 came up to me, determined to try if she
 could not prepare me for an interview with
 him, in such a manner, as to leave no fear
 for its consequences ; and Mrs. Nelson
 gave her an opportunity, the moment she
 entered the chamber, by saying, “your
 “Ladyship has staid in the drawing-room
 “rather longer than usual ; pray what
 2 company

"company had you? for in crossing the passage just now, I thought I heard the voice of some stranger."

"You was very right, Madam," returned she; "there is a gentleman below whose agreeable conversation has been a means of detaining me longer than I had intended; but I cannot give you much account of him, as I never saw him before."

"My dear Lady Charlotte," cried I, "your countenance tells me you have some important, and not unpleasing intelligence to communicate."

"Well, I do verily believe," returned she, laughing, "if I was to pick a pocket, and do it ever so cleverly, my countenance is such a tell-tale, it would betray me directly;—so, to keep you no longer in suspense, I will tell you, that gentleman, I mentioned, was coming

"just now past the India-House, where
 "an express was that moment alighting
 "with an account of one of the Company's
 "ships being safely arrived in the Downs:
 "he had the curiosity to go in, and ob-
 "tain a list of the passengers names, which
 "he shewed us, and amongst them, Eleo-
 "nora, was—"

"Oh! say my Carlton's," interrupted
 I, with great animation, "and you will
 "make me truly happy!"

"Then, my dear," cried her Ladyship,
 with warmth, "be happy at once; for he
 "really was amongst them."

The tears of joy and gratitude burst
 from my eyes; and, dropping upon my
 knees, I exclaimed with fervor, "Al-
 "mighty God! accept the praises of my
 "grateful heart, for this additional in-
 "stance of that goodness and mercy which
 "has followed me all the days of my
 "life!"

Lady

Lady Charlotte and Mrs. Nelson then raised me again upon my seat; and the former said to me, "I think, Eleonora, we may now be in momentary expectation of the Major, therefore it is necessary to consider what we must do with him, for undoubtedly he will want to see you immediately; and—"

I impatiently interrupted her by saying, "sure, Lady Charlotte, you would not wish to prevent him! since there is nothing upon earth that could afford me equal delight."

"You are too hasty, my love," said she; "I was going to observe that I greatly feared the agitation you might be thrown into by such an interview, would be more than you could support at present, without endangering another relapse."

"Oh! no!"—cried I—"fear it not!"

"I am sensible of your tender care, but indeed, indeed, my dear friend, it is unnecessary:—the presence of my Carlton will cause no other emotions, than such as will rather contribute to facilitate than retard my recovery."

"If you are really able to support it," replied she, "there can be no reason for opposing your mutual wishes: therefore, Madam,"—addressing Mrs. Nelson—"if you think we have nothing to apprehend from it, you will, I am sure, have a pleasure in introducing the Major to us; he and Colonel Percival are now in the drawing room."

Hearing this, I started, and forgetting my weakness, was hastening away to him; but Mrs. Nelson caught hold of my arm, and led me back to my seat, saying,

"Eleonora, my dear, you must be more

" more composed if you wish to see the
 " Major; for till you are, I cannot ven-
 " ture to bring him into your presence.—
 " I fear you are deceived in thinking
 " yourself capable of bearing the inter-
 " view, just yet.—We will sit down a lit-
 " tle, my love, that you may collect
 " yourself for the occasion."

We did so, and my tears flowed afresh;
 it soon occurred to my ideas that time and
 sickness must have made a striking alter-
 ation in my person; I feared *that* might be
 productive of an alteration in his senti-
 ments, and I entreated Mrs. Nelson to
 prepare him for the change he would see
 in me.

" Pray set your heart at rest about that,"
 said Lady Charlotte, " for he knows
 " what he has to expect; but, I suppose,
 " you are afraid his admiration of your
 " beauty will be inferior to his esteem for
 " your *mental* qualities.—Oh! vanity!
 " vanity! it follows us women to the

"grave!—But *entre nous*, Eleonora, I
 "think the Major has most reason to
 "be afraid upon that score; for pardon
 "me if I say that, if he is not strangely
 "altered, I should have looked at him
 "five hundred times, before I should
 "have thought of falling in love with
 "his beauty:—he is, I will allow, a very
 "agreeable companion, but you told me,
 "you know, that in him I should see
 "a very handsome man, and I must take
 "the liberty to tell you that you made a
 "most capital mistake in that matter:—
 "but I see you do not believe me, so we
 "will change the subject."

She then proceeded to inform us of
 what had passed in the drawing-room be-
 fore she left it; which enabled me to give
 you the foregoing account: after which,
 my serenity being restored, Mrs. Nelson
 went down.—Adieu.

I remain,

Yours, faithfully,

ELEONORA.

LETTER XLI

MRS. Nelson in a short time returned to us, bringing with her the Major.—As he advanced towards me, I arose and fell almost lifeless into his arms; he was little less affected than my self, and it was several minutes before either of us could articulate a word;—when we did, it was with too much incoherence for me to remember what passed; our mutual sensations were too strong to be expressed with fluency:—in such tender scenes words are useless, because incapable of conveying the *real* feelings of the heart; but when those feelings are merely *affected*, words are at command:—very few passed between us that evening. After the Major had been with us an hour, Lady Charlotte made an observation that I had sat up

longer than my usual time; he took the friendly hint and immediately withdrew to the drawing room. I then went to bed with my mind so perfectly at ease, that I enjoyed a most refreshing sleep through the night, and was astonishingly better in the morning. My dear Carlton, who, at the desire of Mr. Wellingford, had taken up his abode at his house, came to Mr. Nelson's before breakfast, and was much rejoiced to hear of the amendment in me. impatient to see and converse with him again, I arose, and was presently ready to receive him in Mrs. Nelson's dressing room, where we had the happiness of a *tete a tete* conversation during three hours; we talked over all our former fears and disquietudes; and I learned, that through the whole of the tedious separation, he had not been more at ease than myself: he told me, "he was in a very bad state of health when he left India; and his spirits so depressed that no one could persuade him he should live to reach England; but after a few weeks being

at

"at sea he got so much better, that his
"hopes revived again, and aided his recovery
"very; that by the time he arrived in the
"downs he was perfectly well."

I was very soon able to go down stairs and
be amongst my friends as usual; this gave
me an opportunity to observe, that my
beloved Carlton was both admired and
esteemed by them all;—when he had got
his baggage from the ship, he made very
elegant presents to all those who had dis-
tinguished themselves by their kindness
towards me, particularly to Mr. Nelson
and his happy family; and that demonstra-
tive proof of his gratitude, where it was
on my account so justly due, gave me
infinite pleasure:—my happiness now
seemed compleat, for the major, scarce pass-
ed an hour in a day out of my com-
pany, by which means we had abundant
leisure to settle our future plans of felicity:
a quiet domestic life, in a rural retreat,
had as many charms for him as for me;
he therefore advertised for a house, and,

was successful enough to meet with that we are now in: its vicinity to our friends, (being only fifteen miles from London) gave it additional beauties, which were afterwards heightened by our introduction to such a neighbour as your Ladyship.—The house was soon made ready for our reception a carriage and horses provided, and the necessary servants hired and placed there; this done, the major expressed an impatience for our union, and mentioned a day for that purpose, to which I made no objections.—At his desire we set out from the church to our own house immediately, attended by my sister and the rest of our highly valued friends, some of whom remained with us a fortnight:—it was then that I began to experience real happiness; and *that*, with the advantage of pure air and moderate exercise, soon restored me to health and strength:—pardon my vanity if I tell you, that the major says, very often, that I am much handsomer than ever I was; and while *he* continues to think me so, I cannot help feeling some degree

degree of pride in it. As I had kept up a constant correspondence with my good and valuable friends in Yorkshire, I wrote to inform them of my marriage; after which they all visited, and rejoiced in my felicity; but none more than the Eldridge family. My attention to my little nursery,—for I have had an addition to it since you left England, I had then you know only a boy, I am now blessed with a girl,—which has hitherto prevented our returning their visits; but as I have weaned her, we intend going thither this summer. You have seen my Carlton in his parental character, and need not be told how amiable he appears in it; yet I cannot forbear adding, that I think he appears more so now than ever, and my happiness encreases daily, as every day discovers in him some fresh perfection; so that I may truly say the last five years have been an uninterrupted scene of calm tranquility.—

Having now brought my narrative to a

con-

conclusion, allow me to express the grateful sensation of my heart to that God who has so wonderfully provided for, and preserved me through the various trials, and difficulties of my life, and at length placed me in the most exalted state of human bliss.—I look back to that period when my parents were taken from the world, and Harriet and I left destitute and helpless; the review strikes me with astonishment! I behold the great power of him who has the hearts of all in his hands—I see his paternal tenderness in the fulfillment of that promise, viz. “I will be *“ a father unto the fatherless.”* Thou O God! hast been my father, my guardian, my almighty friend! and with the Patriarch of old I confess, I am not worthy of all the mercies, and of all the truth which thou hast shewed unto me.—adieu.

I am,

Your Ladyship's unalterable friend,

ELEONORA CARLTON.



L I S T S U B S C R I B E R S.

The Right Honourable LADY IRWIN, of
Temple Newsam.

James Allan, Esq.

P. A.

Mr. Tho' Adderley, Doctors Commons.

Miss Ashburner, at the Rev. Mr. Porter's,
Clapham.

Wm. Allen, Esq. Warden of Dulwich College

Mrs. Atkinson, Gosport.

Anonymous.

Mrs. Banks.

Miss Banks.

Thos. Bettelworth, Esq. Mark Lane.

Mrs. Bettelworth, Mark Lane.

Jas. Bartlet, Esq.

F. D. B.

R. B.

J. B.

Mr. Boosey, King Street, Cheapside, six sets

Mrs. Bourmaster, Titchfield, Hants.

A LIST OF

Mrs. Bogue, *Titchfield, Hants,*
 Mrs. Brett, *Titchfield, Hants,*
 Mrs. Bellamy, *Southwark,*
 Mr. J. Bowman, *Water Lane, Tower Street,*
 Mrs. Brogden, *Clapham,*
 Mrs. Brook.
 Mr. Cooke, *Bristol,*
 J. C. Esq.
 T. C.
 J. C.
 Mr. Campbell,
 Miss Cotton,
 Mrs. Casson, *Hackney,*
 Mrs. Crane, *Canterbury,*
 Mrs. Crabb.
 —Dyer, Esq.
 Mrs. Dyer,
 Mr. J. Dyer,
 W. D. Esq.
 D. D.
 Mr. Darkin,
 Mrs. Dunning, *Clapham,*
 Jas. Dickson, Esq.
 Miss Dickson, at the Rev. Mr. Porter's *Clapham*
 Mrs. Dickson, *Titchfield, Hants,*
 Mrs. Dalby *Clapham,*

SUBSCRIBERS.

Mrs. Daman, *Portsmouth*,
 Mr. Englehart, *Kew*,
 S. E.
 T. F. E.
 Mr. Edwards, *Camomile Street*,
 Mrs. Eamer, *Wood Street, Cheapside*,
 Mrs. E——t,
 Mrs. Edgar, *Great Russel Street*,
 Miss Everitt, *Fareham, Hants*,
 Miss Eyre, *Clapham*,
 Miss Ewer, *Clapham*.

F

Hon. Mrs. Fitzwilliam,
 Mrs. Folston, *Great Portland Street*,
 Simon Frazer, Esq. *Quebec*,
 Pierre Formalague's, Esq.
 M. F.

Mr. Fauntleroy, *Stepney Green*,
 Mrs. Fauntleroy, *Stepney Green*,
 Mrs. Faulkner, *Titchfield, Hants*,
 Mrs. Fanshaw.

G

Thos. Grant, Esq. *Portsmouth Dock*,
 Mr. Thos. Grant, *Portsmouth Common*,
 Mr. William Grant, *Portsmouth*,
 Miss Grant, *Portsmouth*,
 Miss Mary Grant, *Portsmouth*.

LIST OF

Miss Esther Grant, *Portsmouth Dock,*
 Miss Catherine Grant, *Portsmouth Dock,*
 Mrs. Ann Gardner, *Park Street, Grosvenor Sq.*
 Mrs. Graham,
 Miss Graham,
 W. G.
 J. G.
 Mrs. Girle, *Hackney,*
 Mr. Gardner,
 J. G. Esq. *Herts,*

H

Rt. Hon. Lord Hawke,
 Rt. Hon. Lady Hawke,
 Hon. Miss Hawke,
 H. H. *Gracechurch Street,*
 Mr. A. Harman,
 Mrs. Hog, *Hackney,*
 Miss Horne, *Clapham,*
 Mr. Humphrey, *Stroud Green,*
 G. J. Esq.
 Mr. Jefferies
 Mrs. Jefferies
 Miss Jenkins at the Rev. Mr. Porter's, *Clapham*
 Mrs. Jones, *Halfpenny Hill,*
 Mr. Wm. Albin Jones, *Holborn Hill,*
 Mr. Edward Jones, *Mark Lane,*
 Miss Jones, *Hatton Street,*

SUBSCRIBERS.

Mr. Jacklyn.

K

Mr. Klein.

Newman Knowly's, Esq.

Mr. Knowlys,

Mrs. Knowlys,

Mr. W. C. Knowlys,

Mr. J. Knowlys

Miss Knowlys.

L

Dr. Lettsom

Lady Eliz. Lee, *Hartwell*,

Colonel Lawrie,

Mr. Lockier,

Mr. Lobb, *Kennington*,

J. L. Carnhill,

R. L.

Mrs. Lourie, *Holloway*,

Mrs. Lawford, *Peckham*,

Mrs. Longman, *Cheapside*,

Miss Lockman, *Clapham*,

Miss Laurence, *High Street Mary-la-Bone*,

Miss Loveday.

M

James Macauley, Esq. *Bristol*,

Mr. M.

T. M.

Mrs. Mathew, *Rathbone Place*

A LIST OF

Miss Meade, *High Wycombe*,
 Miss Margerum, *Hackney*,
 Mr. Meriton,
 Mrs. Martin, *Portsmouth Dock*.

N

J. N. Cornhill,

P

Mr. Phillips, *Tower Street*,
 Mrs. Phillips, *Tower Street*,
 J. P.
 Mr. Thos. Pellatt, *St. John Street*,
 Mr. Edw. Pryce, *Bucklersbury*,
 Mr. Pue, *Peckham*,
 Mrs. Powel, *Peckham*,
 Mrs. Prescott, *Portsmouth*,
 Miss Pierce.

R

Mrs. Read, *Chatham*,
 T. R. Esq.
 T. R.
 Mrs. Roberts, *Hackney*,
 Miss Raitt, *Clapham*,
 Miss Rich,
 Mrs. Richardson,
 Mr. Richardson,
 Mrs. C. Richardson,
 Miss Richardson,
 Master Richardson,

SUBSCRIBERS.

Rt. Hon. Countess of *Straubmore*,
 Rt. Hon. Lady Southampton,
 Mr. E Stark,
 Mrs. Scurlock, *Love Hill, Langley, Bucks,*
 Mr. E. S.
 J. S.
 J. S. *Gracechurch Street,*
 Mr. Skelton,
 Mr. Josh. Street, jun. *Mark Lane,*
 J. S.
 T. P. S.
 J. S.
 E. P. S.
 C. S.
 W. S.
 T. S.
 J. S.
 Mrs. Jabez Smith, *Newington,*
 Miss S. Stokes, *Bunhill Row,*
 Mrs. Sharpe, *Clapham,*
 Rev. Neville Stow, *Dulwich College,*
 Rev. Thomas Jennings Smith, *Chaplain of*
Dulwich College,
 Mrs. Shrimpton, *Clapham Common,*
 Mr. Slater, *Stoke Newington,*
 Mr. Seale, *Tower Street,*
 Mrs. Seale, *Tower Street*

A LIST OF

Mrs. Snelling,

Miss Stone, *Hartwell.*

Mr. T——n.

Miss Tute, *Clements Lane,*

Miss Taylor, *Titchfield, Hants,*

Rev. Mr. Townsend,

Mrs. Townsend,

Mr. John Tennant, *Water Lane, Tower Street.*

Miss Vertue,

Miss Vincent, at the Rev. Mr. Porter's,
Clapham,

Mrs. Vanderstegan, *Care End, Oxfordshire.*

Lady Waldo, *Clapham,*

Miss Waldo, *South Lambeth,*

Edw. Webster, Esq. *Lisson Grove, Paddington,*

Mrs. Webster,

G. W.

E. W.

Mr. George Weston,

Mrs. Wright, *Hackney,*

Miss Worthington,

Mrs. Wood, *Kennington Lane,*

Miss Wilkie, at the Rev. Mr. Porter's *Clap-*
ham;

Miss Wood, *Clapham,*

SUBSCRIBERS.

Miss Wolff, *Balham, Surry,*
 Mr. Jossiah Walley,
 Mrs. Wright, *Stoke Newington,*
 Mr. Whitear.

J. Y. Esq.

J. Y.

JAMAICA SUBSCRIBERS.

Adam Anderson, Esq. M. D. of the Parish
 of *St. Ann's*

John Anguin, Esq. of the Parish of Ditto.

Thos. Ashmead, Esq. of the Parish of Ditto.

John Blagrove, Esq. Member of Assembly
 for the Parish of Ditto.

Sam. Betton, Esq. Surgeon, Ditto.

Peter Comrie, Esq. Surgeon, Ditto.

The Hon. Fullerton Costos, Member of Af-
 sembly for Ditto.

Rev. David Fullerton, Rector of Ditto.

Thomas Jenkins, Esq. of Ditto.

John Johnson, Esq. of Ditto.

Captain George Kitson,

John Willox Mac Gregor, Esq. of Ditto.

Donald Mac Donnald, Esq. of Ditto.

Wm. Robertson, Esq. Colonel of the *St. Ann's*
Militia,

Rev. Thomas Rees, Rector of the Parish of
Kingston.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Mrs. Rees, of *Kingston*
Wm. Smith, Esq. of the Parish of *St. Ann's*.
Isaac Lascelles Winn, Esq. of Ditto.
Alex. Weir, Esq. Surgeon, of Ditto
Richard Wollaston, Esq. of Ditto.
Captain Robert Ward.

Shortly will be published,

THE CITIZEN, A NOVEL;
IN LETTERS,

By Mrs. GOMERSALL,

AUTHOR OF ELEONORA.

